

TITLE 172 — PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

CHAPTER 162 PRACTICE- LICENSURE OF RESPIRATORY CARE

162-001 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY: ~~These regulations are intended to implement the laws governing the practice of Respiratory Care and set forth the procedures for licensure pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-1227 to 71-1236 and the Uniform Licensure Law. These regulations govern the credentialing of Respiratory Care under Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-3201 to 38-3216 and the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA).~~

162-002 DEFINITIONS

Act means Neb.Rev.Stat. §§ ~~71-1227 to 71-2136~~ 38-3201 to 38-3216, known as the ~~Practice of Respiratory Care~~ Practice Act.

Active addiction means current physical or psychological dependence on alcohol or a substance, which develops following the use of alcohol or a substance on a periodic or continuing basis.

Alcohol or substance abuse means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress as manifested by one or more of the following occurring at any time during the same 12-month period:

1. Recurrent alcohol or substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home;
2. Recurrent alcohol or substance use in situations in which it is physically hazardous;
3. Recurrent legal problems related to alcohol or substance use; or
4. Continued alcohol or substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the alcohol or substance use.

Approved ~~T~~training ~~P~~program means a respiratory therapy education program which is accredited by the ~~Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care in collaboration with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs~~ Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.

Attest~~/or~~ Attestation means that the individual declares that all statements on the application/~~petition~~ are true and complete.

Board means the Board of Respiratory Care Practice.

Completed ~~A~~application means an application with that contains all the information requested on the application ~~filled in, fees and all required documentation submitted with attestation to its truth and completeness, and that is submitted with the required fees and all required documentation.~~

Confidential information means information protected as privileged under applicable law.

Consumer means a person receiving health or health-related services or environmental services and includes a patient, client, resident, customer, or person with a similar designation.

Continuing ~~E~~education means the offering of instruction or information to license holders for the purpose of maintaining skills necessary to the safe and competent practice of respiratory care. Continuing education may be offered under such names as "scientific school", "clinic", "forum", "lecture", "~~course of study~~", or "educational seminar".

Conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere or non vult contendere made to a formal criminal charge, or a judicial finding of guilt irrespective of the pronouncement of judgment or the suspension thereof, and includes instances in which the imposition or the execution of sentence is suspended following a judicial finding of guilt and the defendant is placed on probation.

Course of study means a program of instruction necessary to obtain a credential meeting the requirements set out for each profession in the appropriate practice act and rules and regulations and includes a college, a professional school, a vocational school, hours of training, or a program of instruction with a similar designation.

Credential means a license, certificate, or registration.

Department means the ~~Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.~~

Dependence means a maladaptive pattern of alcohol or substance use, leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by three or more of the following occurring at any time in the same 12-month period:

1. Tolerance as defined by either of the following:
 - a. A need for markedly increased amounts of alcohol or the substance to achieve intoxication or desired effect; or
 - b. A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of alcohol or the substance;
2. Withdrawal as manifested by either of the following:
 - a. The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for alcohol or the substance as referred to in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, published by the American Psychiatric Association; or
 - b. Alcohol or the same substance or a closely related substance is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms;
3. Alcohol or the substance is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended;
4. A persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control alcohol or substance use;
5. A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain alcohol or the substance, to use alcohol or the substance; or to recover from the effects of use of alcohol or the substance;
6. Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of alcohol or substance use; or
7. Alcohol or substance use continues despite knowledge of having had a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that was likely to have been caused or exacerbated by alcohol or the substance.

Director means the Director of ~~Regulation and Licensure or the Chief Medical Officer if one has been appointed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3201, for performance of the duties set out in that statute~~ Public Health of the Division of Public Health or his/her designee.

Inactive License credential means ~~the voluntary termination of the right or privilege to practice respiratory care. The license holder retains the right or privilege to represent himself/herself as having an inactive license~~ a credential which the credential holder has voluntarily placed on inactive status and by which action has terminated the right to practice or represent him/herself as having an active credential.

License means an authorization issued by the Department to an individual to engage in a profession or to a business to provide services which would otherwise be unlawful in this state in the absence of such authorization.

Lapsed License means ~~the voluntary termination of the right or privilege to represent himself/herself as a licensed person and to practice respiratory care.~~

Licensure Examination means the National Board for Respiratory Care Certified Respiratory Therapist ~~Technician~~ (CRTT) Examination or the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Examination approved by the Department on the recommendation of the Board.

Military service means full-time duty in the active military service of the United States, a National Guard call to active service for more than 30 consecutive days, or active service as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Military service may also include any period during which a servicemember is absent from duty on account of sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause. (From the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2007.)

NAC means the Nebraska Administrative Code, the system for classifying State agency rules and regulations. These regulations are 172 NAC 162.

Official means issued by and under the original seal of the issuing agency.

Pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct means a continued course of incompetent or negligent conduct in performing the duties of the profession.

Provider means an individual or sponsoring organization that presents continuing education programs to license holders ~~and requests approval from the Board of those programs.~~

Profession means any profession or occupation named in subsection (1) or (2) of Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-121.

Respiratory Care means the health specialty responsible for the treatment, management, diagnostic testing, control, and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities associated with the cardiopulmonary system. Respiratory care will not be limited to a hospital setting and will include the therapeutic and diagnostic use of medical gases, administering apparatus, humidification and aerosols, ventilatory assistance and ventilatory control, postural drainage, chest physiotherapy and breathing exercises, respiratory rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and maintenance of

nasal or oral endotracheal tubes. It will also include the administration of aerosol and inhalant medications to the cardiorespiratory system and specific testing techniques employed in respiratory care to assist in diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, and research. Such techniques will include, but not be limited to, measurement of ventilatory volumes, pressures, and flows, measurement of physiologic partial pressures, pulmonary function testing, and hemodynamic and other related physiological monitoring of the cardiopulmonary system.

Respiratory Care Practitioner means:

1. Any person employed in the practice of respiratory care who has the knowledge and skill necessary to administer respiratory care to patients of all ages with varied cardiopulmonary diseases and to patients in need of critical care and who is capable of serving as a resource to the physician and other health professionals in relation to the technical aspects of respiratory care including effective and safe methods for administering respiratory care; and
2. A person capable of supervising, directing, or teaching less skilled personnel in the provision of respiratory care services.

Scaled score means a qualitative interpretive score which is a function of performance.

Served in the regular armed forces has the same meaning as "military service" in these regulations.

~~Verified means sworn to before a Notary Public.~~

162-003 INITIAL CREDENTIAL

162-003.01 Qualifications:

162-003.01A To receive a credential to practice respiratory care, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

1. Age and Good Character: Be at least 19 years old and of good character;
2. Citizenship/Resident Information: Be a citizen of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act, or a nonimmigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States.
3. Education: Have completed an approved training program; and
4. Examination: Have passed the licensure examination with a minimum score of 75 on a scaled score ranging from 1 to 99.

162-003.01B Other Proof of Competency:

1. For applicants who have met requirements as listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01A, who passed the examination more than three years prior to the time of application, and who are not practicing at the time of application, the applicant must within the three years immediately preceding the application, present proof of at least 60 hours of acceptable continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC

162-006.01A through 162-006.01D with a minimum of 15 hours in each of the following categories:

- a. Pharmacology;
- b. Mechanical ventilation;
- c. Non-invasive ventilation support; and
- d. Practice of respiratory care.

- 2. For applicants who have an active license in another jurisdiction, but are not practicing at the time of application, the applicant must meet the requirements listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01A, and provide proof of a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 162-006.01A through 162-006.01D within the three years immediately preceding the application.

162-003.01C An applicant who, on or before July 17, 1986, passed the Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician or Registered Respiratory Therapist examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care or the appropriate accrediting agency acceptable to the Board and meets the requirements as listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01A items 1 and 2 will be issued a license to perform respiratory care.

162-003.02 Application: To apply for a credential to practice respiratory care, the individual must submit a complete application to the Department. A complete application includes all required documentation, the required fee, and a written application. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application that must contain the following information:

1. Written Application:

a. Personal Information:

- (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
- (2) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- (3) Place of birth (city and state or country if not born in the United States);
- (4) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
- (5) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN);
 - (b) Alien Registration Number ("A#"); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
- (6) The applicant's telephone number including area code (optional);
- (7) The applicant's e-mail address (optional);
- (8) The applicant's fax number (optional);
- (9) Citizenship: The applicant must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (a) A citizen of the United States;
 - (b) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for

- (c) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;
 - b. Practice in Nebraska Before Application: The applicant must state:
 - (1) That s/he has not practiced respiratory care in Nebraska before submitting the application; or
 - (2) If s/he has practiced respiratory care in Nebraska before submitting the application, the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska before submitting the application for a credential and the name and location of practice;
 - c. Attestation: The applicant must attest that:
 - (1) S/he has read the application or has had the application read to him/her;
 - (2) All statements on the application are true and complete;
 - (3) S/he is of good character;
 - (4) S/he has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial under 172 NAC 162-008 or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and-
 - (5) For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114, s/he is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documentation upon request.
2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:
- a. Evidence of age, such as:
 - (1) Driver's license;
 - (2) Birth certificate;
 - (3) Marriage license that provides date of birth;
 - (4) Transcript that provides date of birth;
 - (5) U.S. State identification card;
 - (6) Military identification; or
 - (7) Other similar documentation;
 - b. Evidence of good character, including:
 - (1) Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the name of state(s), credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed. The applicant must have the licensing agency submit to the Department a certification of his/her credential;
 - (2) Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken

- against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- (3) Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take an examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial;
- (4) Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, the applicant must submit to the Department:
- (a) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
- (b) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
- (c) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the convictions;
- (d) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
- (e) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
- (f) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;
- c. Evidence that the applicant is:
- (1) A citizen;
- (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
- (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;
- d. Evidence of citizenship, lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
- (1) A U.S. Passport (unexpired or expired);
- (2) A birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal;
- (3) An American Indian Card (I-872);
- (4) A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
- (5) A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
- (6) Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350);
- (7) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240);
- (8) Certification of Birth Abroad (FS-545 or DS-1350);
- (9) A United States Citizen Identification Card (I-197 or I-179);
- (10) A Northern Mariana Card (I-873);

- (11) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (12) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (13) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (14) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
 - e. Documentation of education, including:
 - (1) Name and date of diploma/degree awarded;
 - (2) Name of school, college, university that awarded the diploma/degree; and
 - (3) Official transcript showing completion of an approved training program.
 - f. Documentation of examination, including:
 - (1) Name of examination;
 - (2) Date of examination; and
 - (3) Official documentation of passing the licensure examination and the score achieved on the examination;
 - g. Documentation of Licensure in another Jurisdiction, including
 - (1) Certification from the other jurisdiction (s) verifying licensure, including:
 - (a) Date of initial licensure;
 - (b) The name of the examination on which licensure was based;
 - (c) The score attained on the examination;
 - (d) Date of the examination;
 - (e) Name of accredited program from which the applicant graduated;
 - (f) The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicant's credential.
 - (2) The applicant must request that the certification from another jurisdiction be sent directly to the Department from the appropriate State Board office; and
 - (3) The applicant must:
 - (a) Attest whether s/he is practicing at the time of application; and
 - (b) Provide the dates and locations of practice; and
 - h. Documentation of continuing competency if s/he meets the conditions listed in 172 NAC 162-003.01B item 1: Submit certificates of attendance verifying the 60 hours of continuing education.
 - i. Documentation of continuing competency if licensed in another jurisdiction but not practicing: Submit certificates of attendance verifying the 20 hours of continuing education pursuant to 172 NAC 162-003.01B item 2.
- 3. Fee: The applicant must submit the required license fee along with the application and all required documentation.

162-003.02A Prorated Fee: When a credential will expire within 180 days after its

initial issuance date and the initial credentialing fee is \$25 or more, the Department will collect \$25 or one-fourth of the initial credentialing fee, whichever is greater, for the initial credential, and the credential will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.

162-003.03 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for initial credentialing.

162-003.04 Denial of Initial Credential: If an applicant for an initial credential does not meet all of the requirements for a credential, the Department will deny issuance of a credential. If the applicant is found to have committed any act which would be grounds for denial of a credential as listed in 172 NAC 162-008.01, the Department may deny issuance of a credential. To deny a credential, the Department will notify the applicant in writing of the denial and the reasons for the determination. The denial will become final 30 days after mailing the notice unless the applicant, within that 30-day period, requests a hearing in writing. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

162-003.05 Withdrawn Applications: An applicant for a credential who withdraws his/her application or whose application is rejected by the Department will be allowed the return of his/her fee, except for a \$25 administrative fee to be retained by the Department.

162-003.06 Practice Prior to Credential: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

162-003.07 Confidentiality: Social Security Numbers obtained under this section are not public information but may be shared by the Department for administrative purposes if necessary and only under appropriate circumstances to ensure against any unauthorized access to this information.

162-003.08 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

162-003.09 Non-English Documents: Any documents written in a language other than English must be accompanied by a complete translation into the English language. The translation must be an original document and contain the notarized signature of the translator. An individual may not translate his/her own documents.

~~162-003 REQUIREMENTS FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSE: Any person who wishes to practice respiratory care after January 1, 1987 must obtain a license. The criteria for issuance of licenses and the documentation required by the Department and the Board are set forth below.~~

~~162-003.01 License Based on Examination: An applicant for a license to practice respiratory care issued on the basis of an examination must meet the applicable requirements described below.~~

~~162-003.01A Examination Taken on or Before July 17, 1986: An applicant for a~~

~~license to practice respiratory care issued on the basis of an examination taken on or before July 17, 1986, must:~~

- ~~1. Have passed the licensure examination with a minimum score of 75 on a scaled score ranging from 1 to 99; or~~
- ~~2. Have passed the Registered Respiratory Therapist Examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care;~~
- ~~3. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character; and~~
- ~~4. Submit to the Department:~~
 - ~~a. Documentation of passing the licensure examination. Such documentation must be by proof of certification by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.; or~~
 - ~~b. Documentation of passing the Registered Respiratory Therapist Examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care. Such documentation must be by proof of certification by the National Board for Respiratory Care, Inc.;~~
 - ~~c. A complete application, on a form provided by the Department, a copy of which is attached as Attachment A and incorporated in these regulations. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
 - ~~d. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority; and~~
 - ~~e. The required license fee.~~
 - ~~f. Attestation by the applicant:~~
 - ~~(1) That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license; or~~
 - ~~(2) To the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license.~~
- ~~5. The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for licensure.~~
- ~~6. When a license will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$26, and the license will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.~~

- ~~7. Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a license, is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the license.~~

~~162-003.01B Examination Taken After July 17, 1986: An applicant for a license to practice respiratory care on the basis of an examination taken after July 17, 1986, who is not currently a respiratory care practitioner, must:~~

- ~~1. Have completed an approved training program;~~
- ~~2. Have passed the licensure examination with a minimum score of 75 on a scaled score ranging from 1 to 99;~~
- ~~3. Have attained at least the age of majority and have good moral character; and~~
- ~~4. Submit to the Department:~~
 - ~~a. An official transcript showing completion of an approved training program;~~
 - ~~b. Official documentation of passing the licensure examination and the score achieved on the examination;~~
 - ~~c. A complete application, on a form provided by the Department, a copy of which is attached as Attachment A and incorporated in these regulations. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
 - ~~d. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority; and~~
 - ~~e. The required license fee.~~

- ~~f. Attestation by the applicant:~~

- ~~(1) That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license; or~~
- ~~(2) To the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license.~~

- ~~5. The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for licensure.~~

- ~~6. When a license will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$26, and the license will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.~~

- ~~7. Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a license, is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the license.~~

~~162-003.02 License Based on a License Issued in Another Jurisdiction: An applicant for a license to practice respiratory care on the basis of licensure in another jurisdiction must:~~

- ~~1. Provide documentation that the standards regulating the practice of respiratory care in the other jurisdiction are equal to those maintained in Nebraska;~~
- ~~2. Provide documentation that his/her license was based on a written examination, the grades given at the examination, and the date the license was issued;~~
- ~~3. Provide documentation of being actively engaged in the practice of respiratory care or in an accepted residency or graduate program for at least one of the three years immediately preceding application;~~
- ~~4. Provide documentation of being in active and continuous practice of respiratory care for at least one year under license issued by examination in the state, territory, or District of Columbia from which s/he comes;~~
- ~~5. Have attained the age of majority and have good moral character; and~~
- ~~6. Submit to the Department:~~
 - ~~a. A complete application on a form provided by the Department, a copy of which is attached as Attachment A, and incorporated in these regulations. Only applications which are complete will be considered;~~
 - ~~b. Evidence of having attained at least the age of majority;~~
 - ~~c. The required licensure fee;~~
 - ~~d. Attestation by the applicant:~~
 - ~~(1) That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license; or~~
 - ~~(2) To the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska prior to the application for a license; and~~
- ~~7. Have the licensing or certifying agency submit to the Department:~~
 - ~~a. A certification that the applicant is duly licensed or certified, that his/her license or certificate has never been suspended or revoked, and that so far as the record of the agency is concerned, the applicant is entitled to its endorsement on a form provided by the Department, a copy of which is attached as Attachment A-3, and incorporated into these regulations.~~

- b. ~~The nature of disciplinary actions, if any, taken against the applicant's license or certificate;~~
- c. ~~The date of the applicant's license or certificate;~~
- d. ~~The name of the examination on which licensure was based;~~
- e. ~~The score attained on the examination; and~~
- f. ~~Documentation of the requirements for licensure or certification in the other jurisdiction which are currently in effect and which were in effect at the time the license was issued.~~

8. ~~The Board reviews the documents submitted to determine if the applicant's license or certificate issued by the other jurisdiction was based upon standards regulating the profession which are equal to those maintained in respiratory care by Nebraska.~~

9. ~~The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for licenses.~~

10. ~~When a license will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, the Department will collect \$26, and the license will be valid until the next subsequent renewal date.~~

11. ~~Administrative Penalty/Other Action: An individual who practices prior to issuance of a license, is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014, or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the license~~

162-004 RESERVED

162-0054 EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY: An applicant is eligible to take the licensure examination if s/he meets the educational requirements pursuant to 172 NAC ~~162-003.01B~~ 62-003.01A item 3.

162-0065 EXEMPTION FROM LICENSURE: A registered polysomnographic technologist may perform oxygen therapy or the initiation of noninvasive positive pressure ventilation relating to the study of sleep disorders, without obtaining a respiratory care license. ~~Such~~ These procedures may only be performed or initiated under the supervision of a licensed physician at a facility accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. A registered polysomnographic technologist means a person who is registered by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists, certified by the National Commission of Certifying Agencies.

162-012-006 CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE ~~Each person holding an active Nebraska credential must, on or before the date of expiration of the credential, comply with the continuing competency requirements for his/her profession, unless the requirements are waived in accordance with 172 NAC 162-007.03 and 172 NAC 162-007.04. Each credentialed individual is responsible for maintaining certificates or records of continuing competency activities.~~

162-01206.01 General Requirements for Licensure: Continuing Competency Requirements:

On or before June 1, of each even numbered year, each respiratory care practitioner who ~~is in active practice and in the State of Nebraska~~ is holding an active credential must:

1. Complete 20 hours of acceptable continuing education as specified in 172 NAC 162-006.01A during the preceding 24 month period to renew a license; and
2. Be responsible for maintaining until the next renewal period:
 - a. ~~Maintaining until the next renewal period, d~~Documentation of attendance at, or participation in, continuing education programs/activities; as follows: Documentation of attendance or participation must include the following:
 - (1) American Association of Respiratory Care Continuing Education Summary; or
 - ~~(1)(2)~~ Signed certificate; and
 - ~~(2)(3)~~ Course brochure, or course outline, or course content.
 - b. ~~Maintaining d~~Documentation of presentation of presenting a continuing education program if the licensee is presenting a program. Documentation must include the following:
 - (1) Course outline; and
 - (2) Brochure of course; ~~or~~ and
 - ~~(2)(3)~~ Statement of instructor's qualification to teach the course, unless the qualifications are included in the brochure.

~~3. If applicable, submit an application for waiver of continuing competency requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 162-012.02.~~

~~162-01206.01A~~ Acceptable Continuing Education Programs/Activities: The Board does not pre-approve continuing education programs in order for a learning experience to be but will accepted for renewal or reinstatement of a license, the continuing education program/activities related to the practice of respiratory care therapy or clinical application as specified in 172 NAC 16-006,01B and that are open to all licensees. The continuing education program/activity may focus on: learning experience must relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care and it may focus on research, treatment, documentation, management, or education.

1. Research;
2. Treatment;
3. Documentation;
4. Management; or
5. Education

~~162-01206.01B~~ The Board does not pre-approve continuing education programs but will accept as continuing education for renewal of a license or reinstatement of a license the following learning experiences to include: The Board will accept as continuing education for renewal of a license or reinstatement of a license the following learning experiences to include:

4. 1. Programs at State and National association meetings which relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care;
2. Formal education courses/presentations in which the:
- a. ~~The e~~Courses or presentations are formally organized and planned instructional experiences;
- b. Courses have a date, location, course title, number of contact hours, signed certificate of attendance, and are open to all licensees;
- b.c. The ~~e~~Objectives relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care; and
- e.d. ~~The i~~nstructor has specialized experience or training to meet the objectives of the course.
3. University or college sponsored courses relating to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care. A licensee must provide documentation of successfully completing the course ~~and. A licensee's documentation must~~ include an official transcript, and a program outline and/or objectives;
4. Home study where the content of the home study activity relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, or management, ~~e.g. (for example)~~ videotapes, internet courses, and/or correspondence courses). The program must have a testing mechanism scored by the named study provider. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of completion, and a program outline and/or objectives;
5. Management courses which relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care. A respiratory care practitioner may complete a maximum of four hours of continuing education utilizing management courses each 24 month renewal period. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of attendance and a program outline and/or objectives;
- ~~6. Nationally recognized specialty certification examinations re: Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT), Registered PolysomnographicTechnologist (RPFT), Neonatal Pediatric Specialist (NPS), Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPGST): A licensee will earn 10 contact hours of continuing education each 24 month renewal period for successful completion of a nationally recognized specialty certification examination related to an area of specialty practice in the field of respiratory care. A licensee's documentation must include a copy of the certification.~~
6. Nationally recognized specialty certification examinations. A licensee will earn contact hours for successful completion of nationally

recognized specialty certification examinations related to an area of specialty practice in the field of respiratory care each 24 month renewal period. A licensee's documentation must include a copy of the certification that shows the date of the examination. Continuing education hours will be awarded as follows:

- a. Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT), ten hours of continuing education;
- b. Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT), ten hours of continuing education;
- c. Neonatal Pediatric Specialist (NPS), ten hours of continuing education;
- d. Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT), ten hours of continuing education; ~~and~~
- e. Registered Respiratory Therapist (written and clinical simulation examinations), 15 hours of continuing education;

7. Basic cardiac life support or advanced cardiac life support for adults and pediatric or neonatal courses.

- a. Maximum of one hour credit for the Basic Cardiac Life Support course during each 24 month renewal period;
- b. Maximum of 12 hours credit for initial ACLS certification course or six hours credit for re-certification during each 24-month renewal period; ~~and~~
- c. Maximum of ~~eight~~ hours credit for initial Neonatal Advanced Life Support certification course or four hours credit for recertification during each 24 month renewal period-~~i~~
- d. Maximum of 12 hours credit for Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification course or six hours credit for recertification during each 24 month renewal period-~~i~~

8. Inservices that meet the requirements for formal education as outlined in 172 NAC 162-006.01B item 2 that cover:

- a. Therapeutic respiratory care procedures; or
- b. Respiratory care equipment.

162-04206.01C One hour credit will be awarded for each hour of attendance. Credit will not be awarded for breaks, ~~lunch, or dinner, or meals.~~

162-04206.01D One hour credit will be awarded for each hour of scientific presentation by a licensee acting as an essayist or lecturer to licensed respiratory care practitioners if the program relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to respiratory care. A licensee may receive continuing education credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period, with a maximum of four hours of continuing education for presentations in a 24 month renewal period.

Presenters may not receive any more hours of credit for a continuing education activity than an attendee can receive as outlined in 172 NAC 162-006.01B.

162-04206.01E Non-acceptable Continuing Education: Continuing education credit will not be awarded for programs that do not relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care including but not limited to:

1. Business communications and operations;
2. Medical terminology and language courses;
3. Courses which deal with personal self-improvement, financial gain, or career options;
4. Courses designed for lay persons;
5. Teaching unlicensed or uncertified persons, conducting research, or publications, or any preparation for same;
6. Respiratory care on-the-job training;
7. Respiratory care orientation programs or staff meetings, including orientation to new policies, non-therapeutic procedures, equipment, forms, responsibilities, services, etc.;
8. Presentation made by students; or
9. Participation in or attendance at case conferences, grand rounds, or informal presentations.

162-007 RENEWAL: An individual who wants to renew his/her respiratory care credential must request renewal as specified in 172 NAC 162-007.02. All respiratory care credentials issued by the Department will expire on June 1 of each even-numbered year.

162-007.01 Renewal Notice: At least 30 days before the expiration of a credential, the Department will notify each credential holder by regular mail at the last known address of record. The renewal notice will include:

1. The type of credential;
2. The credential number;
3. The expiration date;
4. Continuing competency requirements for renewal;
5. The amount of the renewal fee; and
6. Information on how to request renewal and how to place a credential on inactive status.

162-007.02 Renewal Procedures: The request for renewal may be submitted in person or by mail or Internet, and must include all required documentation and the renewal fee, which must be paid no later than the expiration date. The applicant may obtain an application from the Department or construct an application.

1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant, in his/her application:
 - a. Must provide the following information:
 - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;

- (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code, or country information);
 - (3) The applicant's:
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN); or
 - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#) or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number,Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both;
 - b. Must state that sh/he is one of the following:
 - (1) A citizen of the United States;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;
 - c. May provide the following information about him/herself:
 - (1) The applicant's telephone number including area code;
 - (2) The applicant's e-mail address; and
 - (3) The applicant's fax number;
 - d. Must indicate that s/he:
 - (1) Is of good character;
 - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements as specified in 172 NAC 162-006 or has requested a waiver if s/he meets the requirements of 172 NAC 162-007.03 and/or 172 NAC 162-007.04;
 - (3) Has not, since the last renewal of the credential, committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 162-008.01, or if any act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of such acts; and
 - (4) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS documentation upon request.
- 2. Documentation: The applicant must submit the following documentation with the application:
 - a. Alien or Non-Immigrant: Evidence of lawful permanent residence, and/or immigration status may include a copy of:
 - (1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;

- b. Other Credential Information: If the applicant holds a credential to provide health services, health-related services, or environmental services in Nebraska or in another jurisdiction, the applicant must submit the name of the state, credential number, type of credential, date issued, and expiration date of each credential where the applicant has been or is currently credentialed;
- c. Disciplinary Action: A list of any disciplinary actions taken against the applicant's credential and a copy of the disciplinary action(s), including charges and disposition;
- d. Denial: If the applicant was denied a credential or denied the right to take a credentialing examination, an explanation of the basis for the denial;
- e. Conviction Information: If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor since his/her last renewal or during the time period since initial credentialing if such occurred within the previous two years, the applicant must submit to the Department:
 - (1) A list of any misdemeanor or felony convictions;
 - (2) A copy of the court record, which includes charges and disposition;
 - (3) Explanation from the applicant of the events leading to the conviction (what, when, where, why) and a summary of actions the applicant has taken to address the behaviors/actions related to the convictions;
 - (4) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required;
 - (5) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation; and
 - (6) Any other information as requested by the Board/Department;

3. The renewal fee according to 172 NAC 2.

162-007.03 Waivers for Military Service: A credential holder who has served in the regular armed forces of the United States during part of the credentialing period immediately preceding the renewal date, or is actively engaged in military service as defined in 172 NAC 162-002 is not required to pay the renewal fee or to meet the continuing competency requirements if acceptable documentation is submitted to the Department. The individual must document his/her military service by submitting to the Department:

- 1. Military identification proving that s/he is in active service;
- 2. Military orders; or
- 3. A letter from his/her Commanding Officer indicating that s/he is on active duty.

Upon receipt of acceptable documentation, the Department will waive the fee and the continuing competency requirements and renew the credential. The credential will remain active until the next renewal period.

162.007.04 Waiver of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department waives continuing competency requirements for individuals who were first credentialed within the 24-month period immediately preceding the renewal date.

162-007.04A The Department may waive continuing competency requirements, in whole or in part, upon submission by a credential holder of documentation that circumstances beyond his/her control have prevented completion of these requirements. These circumstances may include:

1. If the licensee has suffered from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required number of hours of continuing competency requirements during the 24 months preceding the license renewal date, s/he must submit a statement from a treating physician(s) stating that the licensee was injured or ill, the duration of the illness or injury and of the recovery period, and that the licensee was unable to obtain continuing competency requirements during that period; and
2. Other circumstances beyond the licensee's control prevented completion of the continuing competency requirements.

162-007.05 Audit of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department or the Board may biennially select, in a random manner, a sample of the renewal applications for audit of continuing competency requirements. Each credential holder selected for audit must produce documentation of the continuing competency activities.

162-007.05A The Department will notify each selected credential holder by mail. Failure to notify the Department of a current mailing address will not absolve the credential holder from the requirement for audit.

162-007.05B Within 30 days, each selected credential holder must respond by submitting documentation that s/he has met the requirements for continuing competency. An extension beyond 30 days for submission of the documentation may be granted at the discretion of the Department. Documentation submitted by the credential holder will not be returned.

162-007.05C Acceptable documentation that the credential holder has met the continuing competency requirements include:

1. Course outline;
2. Brochure of course; and
3. Statement of instructor's qualification to teach the course, unless the qualifications are included in the brochure.

162-007.05D The Department/Board will review the submitted documentation to determine if the credential holder has met the requirements for continuing competency activities for renewal of the credential. Only documented activities/hours that meet the continuing competency requirements will be counted toward the total

requirements for renewal.

162-007.05E The Department will notify the credential holder upon satisfactory completion of the audit.

162-007.05F The credential of any person who fails to comply with the conditions of the audit will expire 30 days after notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

162-007.05G The Board reserves the right to audit continuing competency requirements of any credential holder by notifying the credential holder and requesting that s/he produce the required documentation of attendance at or participation in acceptable continuing competency programs within 30 days of mailing.

162-007.06 Department Review: The Department will act within 150 days upon all completed applications for renewal.

162-007.06A False Information: The Department may refuse to renew a credential for falsification of any information submitted for renewal of a credential. The refusal will be made according to 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

162-007.07 Address Information: Each credential holder must notify the Department of any change to the address of record.

162-007.08 Expiration of a Credential: A credential expires if a credential holder fails to:

1. Notify the Department that s/he wants to place his/her credential on inactive status upon its expiration;
2. Meet the requirements for renewal on or before the date of expiration of his/her credential; or
3. Otherwise fails to renew his/her credential.

162-007.08A Failure to Renew: A credential automatically expires without further notice or opportunity for hearing if a credential holder fails by the expiration date of the credential to:

1. Submit documentation of continuing competency; or
2. Pay the required renewal fee.

162-007.08B Failure to Meet Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department will refuse to renew a credential, after notice and opportunity for hearing, if a credential holder fails to meet the continuing competency requirements for renewal by the expiration date of the credential.

162-007.08C Right to Practice: When an individual's credential expires, the right to represent him/herself as a credential holder and to practice respiratory care terminates.

162-007.08D Practice After Expiration: An individual who practices after expiration of his/her credential is subject to assessment of an administrative penalty under 172 NAC 162-011 or such other action as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential.

162-007.08E Reinstatement of an Expired Credential: If a credential holder wants to resume the practice of respiratory care after failing to renew his/her credential by the expiration date, s/he must apply to the Department for reinstatement as specified in 172 NAC 162-010.

162-007.09 Inactive Status: When an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, s/he must notify the Department in writing. There is no fee to have a credential placed on inactive status and continuing competency is not required.

162-007.09A Request for Inactive Status: When the Department has received notification that an individual wants to have his/her credential placed on inactive status, the Department will notify the credential holder in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request.

162-007.09B Placement on Inactive Status: When an individual's credential is placed on inactive status, the credential holder must not engage in the practice of respiratory care, but may represent him/herself as having an inactive credential.

162-007.09C Return to Active Status: A credential may remain on inactive status for an indefinite period of time. An individual who wants to have his/her credential returned to active status must apply to the Department for reinstatement and meet the requirements specified in 172 NAC 162-010.

~~162-007 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS: All licenses issued by the Department under this Act and these regulations will expire on June 1 of each even-numbered year.~~

~~162-007.01 Renewal Process. Any licensee who wishes to renew his/her license must:~~

- ~~1. Meet continuing competency requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 162-012;~~
- ~~2. Pay the renewal fee as pursuant to 172 NAC 162-013;~~
- ~~3. Respond to the following questions:~~

- ~~a. Has your license in any health care profession in another state been revoked, suspended, limited, or disciplined in any manner?~~
- ~~b. Have you been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony?~~

~~These questions related to the time period since the last renewal of the license or during the time period since initial licensure in Nebraska if such occurred within the two years prior to the expiration date.~~

- ~~4. Cause to be submitted to the Department:~~

- ~~a. The renewal notice;~~
- ~~b. The renewal fee; and~~

- ~~c. Attestation of completing 20 hours of continuing education earned within 24 months of the date of expiration or application for waiver of continuing competency requirements. Attestation to meeting continuing competency requirements satisfies the submission of the documentation requirement of Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-110;~~
- ~~d. If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's license by another state, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition;~~
- ~~e. If the licensee has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor:~~
 - ~~(1) Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~(2) Copies of arrest records;~~
 - ~~(3) A letter from the licensee explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~(4) All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~(5) A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation.~~

~~162-007.02 First Notice: At least 30 days before June 1 of each even-numbered year, the Department will send a renewal notice by means of regular mail to each~~

~~licensee's last known address as noted in the records of the Department. It is the responsibility of the licensee prior to the renewal period to notify the Department of any name and/or address changes.~~

~~162-007.02A The renewal notice will specify:~~

- ~~1. The name of the licensee;~~
- ~~2. The licensee's last known address of record;~~
- ~~3. The license number;~~
- ~~4. The expiration date of the license;~~
- ~~5. The renewal fee as pursuant to 172 NAC 162-013;~~
- ~~6. The number of continuing education hours required for renewal; and~~
- ~~7. The option to place the license on either inactive or lapsed status.~~

~~162-007.02B The licensee will apply for renewal by submitting to the Department:~~

- ~~1. The renewal notice;~~
- ~~2. The renewal fee;~~
- ~~3. The licensee's Social Security Number;~~
- ~~4. Attestation of completing 20 hours of continuing education earned within 24 months of the date of expiration or application for waiver of continuing competency requirements; and~~
- ~~5. Documentation relating to misdemeanor or felony conviction(s) or licensure revocation, suspension, limitation, or disciplinary action (if applicable).~~

~~162-007.02C If the licensee wishes to place his/her license on either inactive or lapsed status s/he must:~~

~~1. Request that his/her license be placed on inactive status by submitting to the Department:~~

- ~~a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked inactive; and
b. The fee of \$25; or~~

~~2. Request that his/her license be placed on lapsed status by submitting to the Department:~~

- ~~a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked lapsed.~~

~~162-007.02D The Department will notify the licensee in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request to allow the license to be placed on inactive or lapsed status.~~

~~162-007.03 Second Notice: The Department will send to each licensee who fails to renew his/her license or place the license on inactive or lapsed status in response to the first notice, a second notice of renewal pursuant to 172 NAC 162-007.02 that specify:~~

~~1. That the licensee failed to pay the renewal fee;~~

~~2. That the license has expired;~~

~~3. That the licensee is subject to an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014 if s/he practices after the expiration date;~~

~~4. That upon receipt of the renewal fee, together with additional late fee of \$25, and documentation of continuing competency requirements within that time, no order of revocation will be entered; and~~

~~5. That upon failure to receive \$25 in addition to the regular renewal fee and documentation of continuing competency requirements, the license will be revoked pursuant to 172 NAC 162-008.~~

~~162-007.04 The licensee must apply for renewal by submitting to the Department:~~

~~1. The renewal notice;~~

~~2. The renewal fee and the additional fee of \$25;~~

~~3. The licensee's Social Security Number.~~

~~4. Attestation by the licensee:~~

~~(a) That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since the expiration of his/her license ; or~~

~~(b) To the actual number of days practiced in Nebraska since the expiration of his/her license.~~

~~5. Attestation of completing 20 hours of continuing education earned within 24 months of the date of expiration or waiver of continuing competency requirements; and~~

~~6. Documentation relating to misdemeanor or felony conviction(s) or licensure~~

~~_____revocation, suspension, limitation or disciplinary action (if applicable)._____~~

~~162-007.05 If the licensee wishes to place his/her license on either inactive or lapsed status s/he must:~~

~~1.Request that his/her license be placed on inactive status by submitting to the Department:~~

- ~~a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked inactive; and
b. The fee of \$25; or~~

~~2.Request that his/her license be placed on lapsed status by submitting to the Department:~~

- ~~a. The renewal notice with a check in the box marked lapsed.~~

~~162-007.06 The Department will notify the licensee in writing of the acceptance or denial of the request to allow the license to be placed on lapsed or inactive status.~~

~~162-007.07 When any licensee fails, within 30 days of expiration of a license, to pay the renewal fee, to submit documentation of continuing competency requirements and/or to pay an additional fee of \$25, the Department will automatically revoke the license without further notice of hearing and will make proper record of the revocation.~~

~~162-007.08 Failure to meet the continuing competency requirement for renewal within 30 days of expiration of his/her license will constitute non-renewal of licensure, unless a waiver of continuing competency requirements is granted or the license is placed on inactive or lapsed status. When any licensee fails, within 30 days of expiration of a license, to meet the continuing competency requirements for renewal, and/or to pay an additional late fee of \$25, the Department will revoke the license after notice and opportunity for hearing. Hearings held before the Department will be pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Department.~~

~~162-007.09 When the licensee has given notification to the Department that s/he desires to have the license lapse or be placed on inactive status upon expiration, 172 NAC 162-007.07 and 007.08 will not apply.~~

~~162-007.10 The Department may refuse to renew a license for falsification of any information submitted for renewal of a license. The refusal must be made pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-149 to 71-155 and 184 NAC 1, the Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Department.~~

~~_____162-007.11 An individual who practices after expiration of his/her license, is subject to
_____assessment of an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014, or such other action
_____as provided in the statutes and regulations governing the credential._____~~

~~162-008 REVOCATION FOR FAILURE TO MEET RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS: The Department will revoke a license to practice respiratory care when the licensee fails to meet the renewal~~

requirements.

162-008.01 Revocation for Non-Payment of Renewal Fee

~~162-008.01A When a licensee fails to pay the required renewal fee, to submit documentation of continuing competency requirements and/or an additional fee of \$25 and fails to request that his/her license be placed on either inactive or lapsed status within 30 days of its expiration, the Department will automatically revoke the license without further notice or hearing and will make proper record of the revocation.~~

162-008.01A1 The revocation notice must specify:

~~1. That the licensee was given a first and final notice of
renewal requirements and the respective dates for these notices;~~

~~2. That the licensee failed to renew the license or to have the license
timely placed on inactive or lapsed status;~~

~~3. That the Department has revoked the license;~~

~~4. That the licensee has a right to appeal the revocation; and~~

~~5. That the licensee has a right to reinstatement of the license.~~

162-008.02 Revocation for Failure to Meet Continuing Competency Requirements:

~~162-008.02A When a licensee fails within 30 days of the expiration of his/her license to meet the continuing competency requirement for licensure renewal or to request that his/her license be placed on either inactive or lapsed status, the Department will revoke his/her license after notice and opportunity for a hearing.~~

162-008.02A1 The notice of revocation for failure to meet continuing competency requirements must specify that:

~~1. Licensee was given first and second notice of failure to meet the
continuing competency requirements and the respective dates of
each notice;~~

~~2. Licensee either failed to renew the license or to have his/her license
timely placed on inactive or lapsed status;~~

~~3. The Department will revoke the license within 30 days of date of
receipt of the notice unless the licensee requests in writing a
hearing.~~

~~4. The licensee has a right to appeal the revocation; and~~

~~5. The licensee has a right to reinstatement of the license.~~

162-008 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

162-008.01 Grounds for Action Against a Credential: A credential to practice a profession may have disciplinary actions taken against it on any of the following grounds:

1. Misrepresentation of material facts in procuring or attempting to procure a credential;
2. Immoral or dishonorable conduct evidencing unfitness to practice the profession in this state;
3. Abuse of, dependence on, or active addiction to alcohol, any controlled substance, or any mind-altering substance;
4. Failure to comply with a treatment program or an aftercare program, including, but not limited to, a program entered into under the Licensee Assistance Program established pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-175;
5. Conviction of:
 - a. A misdemeanor or felony under Nebraska law or federal law, or
 - b. A crime in any jurisdiction which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a misdemeanor or felony under Nebraska law and which has a rational connection with the fitness or capacity of the applicant or credential holder to practice the profession;
6. Practice of the profession:
 - a. Fraudulently;
 - b. Beyond its authorized scope;
 - c. With gross incompetence or gross negligence; or
 - d. In a pattern of incompetent or negligent conduct;
7. Practice of the profession while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol, controlled substances, drugs, mind-altering substances, physical disability, mental disability, or emotional disability;
8. Physical or mental incapacity to practice the profession as evidenced by a legal judgment or a determination by other lawful means;
9. Illness, deterioration, or disability that impairs the ability to practice the profession;
10. Permitting, aiding, or abetting the practice of a profession or the performance of activities requiring a credential by a person not credentialed to do so;
11. Having had his/her credential denied, refused renewal, limited, suspended, revoked, or disciplined in any manner similar to 172 NAC 162-008.05 by another state or jurisdiction based upon acts by the applicant or credential holder similar to acts described in this part;
12. Use of untruthful, deceptive, or misleading statements in advertisements;
13. Conviction of fraudulent or misleading advertising or conviction of a violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act;
14. Distribution of intoxicating liquors, controlled substances, or drugs for any other than lawful purposes;
15. Violations of the Uniform Credentialing Act or the rules and regulations relating to the particular profession;
16. Unlawful invasion of the field of practice of any profession regulated by the Uniform Credentialing Act which the credential holder is not credentialed to practice;
17. Violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act or any rules and

- regulations adopted pursuant to the act;
18. Failure to file a report required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 38-1,124 or 38-1,125;
 19. Failure to maintain the requirements necessary to obtain a credential;
 20. Violation of an order issued by the Department;
 21. Violation of an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-1,108;
 22. Failure to pay an administrative penalty;
 23. Unprofessional conduct as defined in 172 NAC 162-008.02; or
 24. Violation of the Automated Medication Systems Act.

162-008.02 Unprofessional Conduct: Unprofessional conduct means any departure from or failure to conform to the standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of a profession or the ethics of the profession, regardless of whether a person, consumer, or entity is injured, but does not include a single act of ordinary negligence. Unprofessional conduct also means conduct that is likely to deceive or defraud the public or is detrimental to the public interest. Unprofessional conduct includes but is not limited to:

1. Receipt of fees on the assurance that an incurable disease can be permanently cured;
2. Division of fees, or agreeing to split or divide the fees, received for professional services with any person for bringing or referring a consumer other than:
 - a. With a partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder or his/her office or clinic;
 - b. With a landlord of the applicant or credential holder pursuant to a written agreement that provides for payment of rent based on gross receipts;
 - c. With a former partner or employee of the applicant or credential holder based on a retirement plan or separation agreement; or
 - d. By a person credentialed pursuant to the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act.
3. Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, falsification of third-party claim documents;
4. Cheating on or attempting to subvert the credentialing examination;
5. Assisting in the care or treatment of a consumer without the consent of the consumer or his/her legal representative;
6. Use of any letters, words, or terms, either as a prefix, affix, or suffix, on stationery, in advertisements, or otherwise, indicating that the person is entitled to practice a profession for which s/he is not credentialed;
7. Performing, procuring, or aiding and abetting in the performance or procurement of a criminal abortion;
8. Knowingly disclosing confidential information except as otherwise permitted by law;
9. Commission of any act of sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation related to the practice of the profession of the applicant or credential holder;
10. Failure to keep and maintain adequate records of treatment or service;
11. Prescribing, administering, distributing, dispensing, giving, or selling any controlled substance or other drug recognized as addictive or dangerous for

- other than a medically accepted therapeutic purpose;
12. Prescribing any controlled substance to:
- a. Oneself; or
 - b. Except in the case of a medical emergency:
 - (1) One's spouse;
 - (2) One's child;
 - (3) One's parent;
 - (4) One's sibling; or
 - (5) Any other person living in the same household as the prescriber;
13. Failure to comply with any federal, state, or municipal law, ordinance, rule, or regulation that pertains to the applicable profession;
14. Disruptive behavior, whether verbal or physical, which interferes with consumer care or could reasonably be expected to interfere with the care; and
15. The following acts which include but are not limited to:
- a. Competence:
 - (1) A respiratory care practitioner must not provide services for which s/he is not trained or experienced;
 - (2) Encouraging or promoting respiratory care by untrained or unqualified persons; and
 - (3) Committing any act which endangers patient safety or welfare.
 - b. Confidentiality: A respiratory care practitioner must hold in confidence information obtained from a patient, except in those unusual circumstances in which to do so would result in clear danger to the person or to others, or where otherwise required by law.
 - c. Professional Relationships: A respiratory care practitioner must safeguard the welfare of patients and maintain appropriate professional relationships with patients. Commission of any of the following acts or behavior constitutes unprofessional conduct:
 - (1) Improper use of another person for one's own advantage;
 - (2) Failure to decline to carry out respiratory care services that have been requested when the services are known to be contraindicated or unjustified;
 - (3) Failure to decline to carry out procedures that have been requested when such services are known to be outside of the respiratory care practitioner's scope of practice;
 - (4) Verbally or physically abusing patients;
 - (5) Falsification or unauthorized destruction of patient records;
 - (6) Attempting to provide diagnostic or treatment information to patient(s) that is beyond the respiratory care practitioner's level of training and expertise;
 - (7) Delegating to other personnel those patient related services when the clinical skills and expertise of a respiratory care practitioner is required.
 - d. Sexual Harassment: A respiratory care practitioner must not under any circumstances engage in sexual harassment of patients or co-workers.

(1) Sexual Harassment includes making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature as a condition of:

(a) The provision or denial of respiratory care to a patient;

(b) The provision or denial of employment or employment advances to a co-worker;

(c) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the patient or unreasonably interfering with a patient's ability to recover; or

(d) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment or unreasonably interfering with the co-worker's ability to perform his/her work;

e. Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

f. Violating an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. §38-1,108;

g. Failure to follow policies or procedures implemented in the practice situation to safeguard patient care;

h. Failure to safeguard the patient's dignity and right to privacy;

i. Failure to exercise appropriate supervision over persons who are authorized to practice only under the supervision of the licensed professional; and

j. Practicing respiratory care in this state without a current Nebraska license; or

k. Failure of a licensee, who is the subject of a disciplinary investigation, to furnish the Board or its investigator with requested information or requested documents.

162-008.03 Temporary Suspension or Limitation

162-008.03A The Department may temporarily suspend or temporarily limit any credential issued by the Department without notice or a hearing if the Director determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that grounds exist under 172 NAC 162-008.01 for the revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential and that the credential holder's continuation in practice or operation would constitute an imminent danger to the public health and safety. Simultaneously with the action, the Department will institute proceedings for a hearing on the grounds for revocation, suspension, or limitation of the credential. The hearing will be held no later than 15 days from the date of the temporary suspension or temporary limitation of the credential.

162-008.03B A continuance of the hearing will be granted by the Department upon the written request of the credential holder, and the continuance must not exceed 30 days unless waived by the credential holder. A temporary suspension or temporary limitation order by the Director will take effect when served upon the credential

holder.

162-008.03C A temporary suspension or temporary limitation of a credential under 172 NAC 162-008.03 will not be in effect for more than 90 days unless waived by the credential holder. If a decision is not reached within 90 days, the credential will be reinstated unless and until the Department reaches a decision to revoke, suspend, or limit the credential or otherwise discipline the credential holder.

162-008.04 Department Action: The Department will follow the procedures delineated in the Uniform Credentialing Act to notify credential holders of any disciplinary action to be imposed and the time and place of the hearing.

162-008.05 Sanctions: Upon the completion of any hearing held regarding discipline of a credential, the Director may dismiss the action or impose the following sanctions:

1. Censure;
2. Probation;
3. Limitation;
4. Civil Penalty;
5. Suspension; or
6. Revocation.

162-008.05A Additional Terms and Conditions of Discipline: If any discipline is imposed pursuant to 172 NAC 162-008.05, the Director may, in addition to any other terms and conditions of that discipline:

1. Require the credential holder to obtain additional professional training and to pass an examination upon the completion of the training. The examination may be written or oral or both and may be a practical or clinical examination or both or any or all of the combinations of written, oral, practical, and clinical, at the option of the Director;
2. Require the credential holder to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals appointed by the Director. If the Director requires the credential holder to submit to an examination, the Director will receive and consider any other report of a complete diagnostic examination given by one or more physicians or other qualified professionals of the credential holder's choice if the credential holder chooses to make available the report or reports by his/her physician or physicians or other qualified professionals; and
3. Limit the extent, scope, or type of practice of the credential holder.

162-009-RESERVED- VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OR LIMITATION: A credential holder may offer to voluntarily surrender or limit a credential issued by the Department. The credential holder must make the offer in writing on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the credential holder, which must include the following information:

1. Personal Information:
 - a. First, middle and last name;

- b. Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address), city, state, and zip code;
 - c. Telephone number; and
 - d. Fax number.
 2. Information Regarding the Credential Being Offered for Surrender or Limitation:
 - a. List credential(s) and credential number(s) that would be surrendered or limited;
 - b. Indicate the desired time frame for offered surrender or limitation:
 - (1) Permanently;
 - (2) Indefinitely; or
 - (3) Definite period of time (specify);
 - c. Specify reason for offered surrender or limit of credential; and
 - d. Specify any terms and conditions that the credential holder wishes to have the Department consider and apply to the offer.
 3. Attestation: The credential holder must:
 - a. Attest that all the information on the offer is true and complete; and
 - b. Provide the credential holder's signature and date.

162-009.01 The Department may accept an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation of a credential based on:

1. An offer made by the credential holder on his/her own volition;
2. An offer made with the agreement of the Attorney General or the legal counsel of the Department to resolve a pending disciplinary matter;
3. A decision by the Attorney General to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in lieu of filing a petition for disciplinary action; or
4. A decision by the legal counsel of the Department to negotiate a voluntary surrender or limitation in response to a notice of disciplinary action.

162-009.02 The Department may reject an offer of voluntary surrender of a credential under circumstances which include, but are not limited to, when the credential:

1. Is under investigation;
2. Has a disciplinary action pending but a disposition has not been rendered; or
3. Has had a disciplinary action taken against it.

162-009.03 When the Department either accepts or rejects an offer of voluntary surrender or limitation, the Director will issue the decision in a written order. The order will be issued within 30 days after receipt of the offer of voluntary surrender or limitation and will specify:

1. Whether the Department accepts or rejects the offer of voluntary surrender; and
2. The terms and conditions under which the voluntary surrender is accepted or the basis for the rejection of an offer of voluntary surrender. The terms and conditions governing the acceptance of a voluntary surrender will include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Duration of the surrender;
 - b. Whether the credential holder may apply to have the credential reinstated; and

c. Any terms and conditions for reinstatement.

162-009.04 A limitation may be placed on the right of the credential holder to practice a profession or operate a business to the extent, for the time, and under the conditions as imposed by the Director.

162-009.05 Violation of any of the terms and conditions of a voluntary surrender or limitation by the credential holder will be due cause for the refusal of renewal of the credential, for the suspension or revocation of the credential, or for refusal to restore the credential.

162-009.06 Reinstatement following voluntary surrender is set out in 172 NAC 162-010.

162-010 REINSTATEMENT: This section applies to individuals previously credentialed in Nebraska who seek the authority to return to practice in Nebraska with a valid Nebraska credential. Individuals may apply for reinstatement as follows:

1. An individual whose credential has expired, been placed on inactive status, voluntarily surrendered for an indefinite period of time, or suspended or limited for disciplinary reasons, may apply for reinstatement at any time.
2. An individual whose credential has been voluntarily surrendered for a definite period of time may apply for reinstatement after that period of time has elapsed.
3. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement only after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation.
4. An individual whose credential has been permanently voluntarily surrendered may not apply for reinstatement.

The voluntary surrender of a credential may be unrelated to disciplinary matters, or may be done to resolve a pending disciplinary matter, in lieu of disciplinary action, or in response to a notice of disciplinary action.

162-010.01 Reinstatement From Expired or Inactive Status or Following Voluntary Surrender Unrelated to a Disciplinary Matter

The applicant must submit to the Department a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.

1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant, in his/her application:
 - a. Must provide the following information:
 - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;
 - (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, a post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);
 - (3) The applicant's
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN); or
 - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or

- (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.
Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
- (4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;
- b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (1) A citizen of the United States;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;
- c. If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful permanent residence and/or immigration status which may include a copy of:
 - (1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- d. May provide the following information about him/herself:
 - (1) Telephone number including area code;
 - (2) E-mail address;
 - (3) Fax number; and
- e. Must indicate that s/he:
 - (1) Is of good character;
 - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 162-004 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application (or other requirements as specified by the practice act);
 - (3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;
 - (4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 162-008.01 since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and
 - (5) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 41-08 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS

documentation upon request; and

2. Fee(s): The following fee(s):
 - a. If the credential is expired or inactive, the reinstatement and renewal fees; or
 - b. If the credential was voluntarily surrendered, the renewal fee.

162-010.01A If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was expired, inactive, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may, with the recommendation of the Board, take one or more of the following actions:

1. Deny the application to reinstate the credential;
2. Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or
3. Reinstate the credential.

162-010.01B If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:

1. Deny the application for reinstatement of the credential;
2. Reinstate the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other disciplinary actions on the credential; and/or
3. Reinstate the credential.

162-010.01C The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.

162-010.01D The Department's decision may be appealed to the Director by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

162-010.02 Reinstatement from Non-Disciplinary Revocation or Lapsed Status: An individual whose credential was placed on non-disciplinary revocation or lapsed status before December 1, 2008 may apply for reinstatement as provided in 172 NAC 162-010.01.

162-010.03 Reinstatement Following Suspension, Limitation, Revocation, or Voluntary Surrender to Resolve a Pending Disciplinary Matter, In Lieu of Discipline, or In Response to a Notice of Disciplinary Action: An individual whose credential was suspended or limited may apply for reinstatement at any time. An individual whose credential has been revoked may apply for reinstatement after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation. An individual whose credential was voluntarily surrendered may apply for reinstatement according to the order entered by the Director.

The applicant must submit to the Board a written application on a form provided by the Department or constructed by the applicant.

1. Application: The applicant must attest that all information in the application is truthful and complete, and the applicant in his/her application:
 - a. Must provide the following information:
 - (1) The legal name of the applicant, maiden name (if applicable), and any other names by which the applicant is known;

- (2) Mailing address (street, rural route, or post office address; and city, state, and zip code or country information);
 - (3) The applicant's
 - (a) Social Security Number (SSN); or
 - (b) Alien Registration Number (A#); or
 - (c) Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) number.Certain applicants may have both a SSN and an A# or I-94 number, and if so, must report both.
 - (4) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;
 - (5) A statement of the reason the applicant believes his/her credential should be reinstated;
- b. Must state that s/he is one of the following:
 - (1) A citizen of the United States;
 - (2) An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and who is eligible for a credential under the Uniform Credentialing Act; or
 - (3) A non-immigrant whose visa for entry, or application for visa for entry, is related to employment as a credential holder in the United States;
- c. If the applicant is an alien or non-immigrant, s/he must submit evidence of lawful permanent residence and/or immigration status which may include a copy of:
 - (1) An Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551, otherwise known as a "Green Card");
 - (2) An unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired Temporary I-551 stamp bearing the same name as the passport;
 - (3) A document showing an Alien Registration Number ("A#") with visa status; or
 - (4) A Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) with visa status;
- d. May provide the following information about him/herself:
 - (1) Telephone number including area code;
 - (2) E-mail address;
 - (3) Fax number; and
- e. Must indicate that s/he:
 - (1) Is of good character;
 - (2) Has met the continuing competency requirements specified in 172 NAC 162-004 within the 24 months immediately preceding submission of the application (or other requirements as specified by the practice act);
 - (3) Has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, or if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential, the actual number of days practiced;
 - (4) Has not committed any act which would be grounds for action against a credential as specified in 172 NAC 162-008.01

since the last renewal or issuance of the credential (whichever is later), or if an act(s) was committed, provide an explanation of all such acts; and

- (5) Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, for the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 to 4-114. The applicant must provide his/her immigration status and alien number, and agree to provide a copy of his/her USCIS documentation upon request; and

2. Fee: The renewal fee.

162-010.03A The Board will make a recommendation regarding reinstatement following suspension, limitation, revocation, or voluntary surrender within 180 days of receipt of the application.

162-010.03B The Department, with the recommendation of the Board, may:

1. Conduct an investigation to determine if the applicant has committed acts or offenses prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-178;
2. Require the applicant to submit to a complete diagnostic examination, at the expense of the applicant, by one or more physician(s) or other professionals appointed by the Board. The applicant may also consult a physician(s) or other professionals of his/her own choice for a complete diagnostic examination and make available a report(s) of the examination(s) to the Department and to the Board;
3. Require the applicant to pass a written, oral, or practical examination or any combination of examinations at the expense of the applicant;
4. Require the applicant to successfully complete additional education at the expense of the applicant;
5. Require the applicant to successfully pass an inspection of his/her practice site; or
6. Take any combination of these actions.

162-010.03C On the basis of the written application, materials submitted by the applicant, and the information obtained under 172 NAC 162-010.03B, the Board may:

1. Deny the application for reinstatement; or
2. Recommend to the Department:
 - a. Full reinstatement of the credential;
 - b. Modification of the suspension or limitation; or
 - c. Reinstatement subject to limitations or subject to probation with terms and conditions.

If the applicant has practiced while his/her credential was suspended, limited, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered, the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011, in which case a separate notice of opportunity for hearing will be sent to the applicant.

162-010.03D An affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership of the Board

as authorized by statute is required to recommend reinstatement of a credential with or without terms, conditions, or restrictions.

162-010.03E Full Reinstatement: If the Board recommends full reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or subject to probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:

1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;
2. The application for reinstatement;
3. The record of hearing, if any; and
4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.

162-010.03F Denial, Modification, Limitation, or Probation: If the Board's initial decision is to deny the application for reinstatement, recommend modifications of the suspension or limitation, or reinstate the credential subject to limitation or probation with terms and conditions, notification of the Board's decision will be mailed to the applicant by certified mail.

1. The initial decision or recommendation of the Board will become final 30 days after the decision or recommendation is mailed to the applicant unless the applicant requests a hearing within that 30-day period.
 - a. If the applicant requests a hearing before the Board, the Department will mail a notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing. The notice will be sent by certified mail at least 30 days before the hearing.
 - b. Following the hearing, the Board may deny the reinstatement or recommend full reinstatement of the credential, or recommend modification of the suspension or limitation, or recommend reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions.
2. If the applicant has been afforded a hearing or an opportunity for a hearing on an application for reinstatement within two years before filing the current application, the Department may grant or deny the application without another hearing before the Board.

162-010.0G Denial Decision: If the Board's final decision is denial of the application for reinstatement, the applicant will be notified by certified mail. The applicant may appeal the Board's denial to District Court in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

162-008.03H Board Recommendation: If the Board's final recommendation is full

reinstatement of the credential, modification of the suspension or limitation, or reinstatement of the credential subject to limitations or probation with terms and conditions, the Board's recommendation will be sent to the applicant by certified mail.

The following information will be forwarded to the Director for a decision:

1. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;
2. The application for reinstatement;
3. The record of hearing, if any; and
4. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the applicant.

162-008.03I Director's Review: The Director, upon receipt of the Board's recommendation for full reinstatement, modification, or probation, will review the application and other documents and make a decision within 150 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation and accompanying documents. The Director will enter an order setting forth the decision. The Director may:

1. Affirm the recommendation of the Board and grant reinstatement; or
2. Reverse or modify the recommendation if the Board's recommendation is:
 - a. In excess of statutory authority;
 - b. Made upon unlawful procedure;
 - c. Unsupported by competent, material, and substantial evidence in view of the entire record; or
 - d. Arbitrary and capricious.

The order regarding reinstatement of the applicant's credential will be sent to the applicant by certified mail. The Director's decision may be appealed to District Court by any party to the decision. The appeal must be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

162-~~044-011~~ ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY: The Department may assess an administrative penalty when evidence exists that a person or entity practices without a license, of practice without a credential to practice a profession or operate a business. Practice without a license-credential for the purpose of this regulation means practice:

1. Prior to the issuance of a ~~license-credential~~;
2. Following the expiration of a ~~license-credential~~; or
3. Prior to the reinstatement of a ~~license-credential~~.

162-~~044.04011.01~~ Evidence of Practice: The Department will consider any of the following conditions as prima facie evidence of practice without a ~~licensebeing credentialed~~:

1. The person admits to engaging in practice;
2. Staffing records or other reports from the employer of the person indicate that the person was engaged in practice;

3. Billing or payment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;
4. Service, care, or treatment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;
5. Appointment records indicate that the person was engaged in practice; **and**
6. The person opens a business or practice site and announces or advertises that the business or site is open to provide service, care, or treatment.

For purposes of this regulation, prima facie evidence means a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary.

162-014.0211.02 **Penalty:** The Department may assess an administrative penalty in the amount of \$10 per day, not to exceed a total of \$1,000 for practice without a license/credential. To assess the penalty, the Department will:

1. Provide written notice of the assessment to the person. The notice will specify:
 - a. The total amount of the administrative penalty;
 - b. The evidence on which the administrative penalty is based;
 - c. That the person may request, in writing, a hearing to contest the assessment of an administrative penalty;
 - d. That the Department will within 30 days following receipt of payment of the administrative penalty, ~~transmit~~ remit the penalty to the State Treasurer to be disposed of in accordance with Article VII, section 5 of the Constitution of Nebraska for credit to the Permanent School Fund; and
 - e. That an unpaid administrative penalty constitutes a debt to the State of Nebraska which may be collected in the manner of a lien foreclosure or sued for and recovered in a proper form of action in the name of the state in the District Court of the county in which the violator resides or owns property. The Department may also collect in such action attorney's fees and costs incurred directly in the collection of the administrative penalty; and
 - f. Failure to pay an administrative penalty may result in disciplinary action.
2. Send by certified mail, a written notice of the administrative penalty to the last known address of the person to whom the penalty is assessed.

162-014.0311.03 **Administrative Hearing:** When a person contests the administrative penalty and requests a hearing, the Department will hold a hearing pursuant to ~~Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 TO 84-920 and the Department's rules and regulations adopted pursuant to these statutes.~~ the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings.

162-012 **FEES:** Fees referred to in these regulations are set out in 172 NAC 2, unless otherwise specified.

These amended rules and regulations replace 172 NAC 162 Regulations Governing the Practice

Respiratory Care, effective January 15, 2005.

162-010 GROUND ON WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY DENY, REFUSE RENEWAL OF OR DISCIPLINE A LICENSE:

162-010.01 The Department may deny an application for a license when the applicant fails to meet the requirements for licensure pursuant to 172 NAC 162-003.

162-010.02 The Department may refuse renewal of a license if the licensee fails to meet the requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 162-007.

162-010.03 The Department may deny, refuse renewal of, limit, suspend, or revoke licenses for any of the following grounds:

1. Fraud, forgery, or misrepresentation of material facts, in procuring or attempting to procure a license.

2. Grossly immoral or dishonorable conduct evidencing unfitness or lack of proficiency sufficient to meet the standards required for practice of the profession in this state.

3. Habitual intoxication or dependence or failure to comply with a treatment program

or an aftercare program entered into under the Licensee Assistance Program established pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-172.01.

4. Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony under state law, federal law, or the law of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a misdemeanor or felony under state law and which has a rational connection with the applicant's or license holder's fitness or capacity to practice the profession.

5. Practice of the profession (a) fraudulently, (b) beyond its authorized scope, (c) with manifest incapacity, (d) with gross incompetence or with gross negligence, or (e) in a pattern of negligent conduct. Pattern of negligent conduct means a continued course of negligent conduct in performing the duties of the profession.

6. Practice of the profession while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol, controlled substances, narcotic drugs, physical disability, mental disability, or emotional disability.

7. Physical or mental incapacity to practice the profession as evidenced by a legal adjudication or a determination thereof by other lawful means.

8. Permitting, aiding, or abetting the practice of a profession or the performance of activities requiring a license or certificate by a person not licensed or certified to do so.

9. ~~Having had his/her license denied, refused renewal, limited, suspended, or revoked or having had the license disciplined in any other manner pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-155 by another state or jurisdiction to practice respiratory care based upon acts by the applicant or license holder pursuant to 172 NAC 162-010. A certified copy of the record of denial, refusal of renewal, limitation, suspension, or revocation of a license or certificate or the taking of other disciplinary measures against it by another state or jurisdiction will be conclusive evidence.~~
10. ~~Unprofessional conduct which terms include all acts pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-148 and the other acts which include but are not limited to:~~
- ~~a. Competence A respiratory care practitioner must not provide services for which s/he is not trained or experienced. Unprofessional conduct in the practice of respiratory care includes but is not limited to:~~
- ~~(1) Committing any act which endangers patient safety or welfare;~~
- ~~(2) Encouraging or promoting respiratory care by untrained or unqualified persons; or~~
- ~~(3) Failure or departure from the standards of acceptable and prevailing practice in respiratory care.~~
- ~~b. Confidentiality: A respiratory care practitioner must hold in confidence information obtained from a patient, except in those unusual circumstances in which to do so would result in clear danger to the person or to others, or where otherwise required by law. Failure to do so constitutes unprofessional conduct.~~
- ~~c. Professional Relationships: A respiratory care practitioner must safeguard the welfare of patients and maintain appropriate professional relationships with patients. Commission of any of the following acts or behavior constitutes unprofessional conduct:~~
- ~~(1) Improper use of another person for one's own advantage;~~
- ~~(2) Failure to decline to carry out respiratory care services that have been requested when the services are known to be contraindicated or unjustified;~~
- ~~(3) Failure to decline to carry out procedures that have been requested when such services are known to be outside of the respiratory care practitioner's scope of practice;~~
- ~~(4) Verbally or physically abusing patients;~~

~~(5) Falsification or unauthorized destruction of patient records;~~

~~(6) Attempting to provide diagnostic or treatment information to patient(s) that is beyond the respiratory care practitioner's level of training and expertise.~~

~~(7) Delegating to other personnel those patient related services when the clinical skills and expertise of a respiratory care practitioner is required; and~~

~~(8) Failure to conform to the ethics of the profession as specified in the American Association for respiratory care's "Code of Ethics".~~

~~d. Sexual Harassment: A respiratory care practitioner must not under any circumstances engage in sexual harassment of patients or co-workers.~~

~~(1) Sexual Harassment includes making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, and engaging in other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature as a condition of:~~

~~(a) The provision or denial of respiratory care to a patient;~~

~~(b) The provision or denial of employment or employment advances to a co-worker;~~

~~(c) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for the patient or unreasonably interfering with a patient's ability to recover; or~~

~~(d) For the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment or unreasonably interfering with the co-worker's ability to perform his/her work.~~

~~e. Obtaining any fee for professional services by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.~~

~~f. Violating an assurance of compliance entered into under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-171.02.~~

~~g. Failure to follow policies or procedures implemented in the practice situation to safeguard patient care.~~

~~h. Failure to safeguard the patient's dignity and right to privacy.~~

~~i. Failure to exercise appropriate supervision over persons who are authorized to practice only under the supervision of the licensed professional; and~~

~~j. Practicing respiratory care in this state without a current Nebraska license.~~

~~11. Use of untruthful or improbable statements, or flamboyant, exaggerated, or extravagant claims concerning the license holder's professional excellence or abilities, in advertisements.~~

~~12. Conviction of fraudulent or misleading advertising or conviction of a violation of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act.~~

~~13. Distribution of intoxicating liquors, controlled substances or drugs for any other than lawful purposes.~~

~~14. Willful or repeated violations of the Uniform Licensing Law or these rules and regulations.~~

~~15. Unlawful invasion of the field of practice of any profession mentioned in the Uniform Licensing Law which the license holder is not licensed or certified to practice.~~

~~16. Practicing the profession of respiratory care while his/her license is suspended or in contravention of any limitation placed upon his/her license.~~

~~17. Physical or mental illness or physical or mental deterioration or disability which would render the applicant or license holder unqualified to practice his/her profession or occupation.~~

~~18. Refusal to submit to a physical or mental examination request by the Board, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-161.12 through 71-161.16 to determine his/her qualifications to practice or to continue in the practice of the profession or occupation for which application was made or for which s/he is licensed.~~

~~19. Failure to file a report required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-168.~~

~~162-010.04 If the Department proposes to deny, refuse renewal of, limit, revoke, or suspend a license other than for non-payment of the renewal fee, the applicant or licensee will be given an opportunity for a hearing before the Department and will have the right to present evidence on his/her own behalf. Hearings before the Department will be conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1, the Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Department.~~

~~162-011 RE-CREDENTIALING: This section applies to individuals previously issued a Nebraska credential who have lost the legal authority to practice in total or in part and who seek the authority to return to practice in Nebraska with a valid Nebraska credential.~~

~~162-011.01 Eligibility:~~

~~162-011.01A An individual whose credential has been previously:~~

- ~~1. Placed on lapsed status;~~
- ~~2. Placed on inactive status;~~
- ~~3. Revoked for failure to meet the renewal requirements;~~
- ~~4. Suspended or limited for disciplinary reasons; or~~
- ~~5. Voluntarily surrendered or voluntarily limited for an indefinite period of time;~~
~~may request, at any time, to be re-credentialed and re-authorized to practice~~
~~under the credential, pursuant to these regulations.~~

~~162-011.01B An individual whose credential has been revoked for disciplinary reasons may apply for reinstatement only after a period of two years has elapsed from the date of revocation.~~

~~162-011.01C An individual who practices prior to re-credentialing, is subject to:~~

- ~~1. Assessment of an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014, and~~
- ~~2. Limitation or other sanction on the credential, or denial of the request to be re-credentialed and re-authorized to practice under the credential, and~~
~~referral for prosecution for uncredentialed practice, as provided in the~~
~~statutes and regulations governing the credential.~~

~~162-011.02 Requirements for Restoration from Lapsed Status: A person whose credential has been placed on lapsed status may have their credential restored from lapsed to active status by the Department upon proof to the Department that they meet the requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 162-003.~~

~~162-011.02A If the Department has evidence that an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was lapsed, the Department may:~~

- ~~1. Assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014;~~
- ~~2. Initiate disciplinary action against the lapsed credential;~~
- ~~3. Deny the request to restore the credential from lapsed to active status; or~~
- ~~4. Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.~~

~~162-011.02B If the Department has evidence that an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:~~

- ~~1. Initiate disciplinary action against the lapsed credential;~~
- ~~2. Deny the request to restore the credential from lapsed to active status;~~
~~or~~
- ~~3. Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.~~

~~162-011.02C The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.~~

~~162-011.02D The applicant will be provided with notice and the opportunity for hearing~~

~~pursuant to the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920 before any of the actions pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011.02A and 162-011.02B are final.~~

~~162-011.03 Requirements to Move a Credential from Inactive to Active Status: A person whose credential has been placed on inactive status may have his/her credential moved from inactive to active status upon proof to the Department that they meet the following requirements:~~

- ~~1. Meet renewal requirements, including:
 - ~~a. The continuing competency requirements; and~~
 - ~~b. Paying the renewal fee and any other applicable fees;~~~~
- ~~2. Attest:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~~~

~~162-011.04 Procedures for Moving from Inactive to Active Status: To move a credential from inactive status to active status, the applicant must submit the following to the Department:~~

- ~~1. A written application which contains the following information about the applicant:
 - ~~a. Name;~~
 - ~~b. Address;~~
 - ~~c. Social Security Number; and~~
 - ~~d. If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - ~~e. A statement describing all:
 - ~~(1) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was active;~~
 - ~~(a) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:
 - ~~[1] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~[2] Arrest records;~~
 - ~~[3] A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~[4] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~[5] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation.~~~~
 - ~~(b) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against~~~~~~

any professional credential held by the applicant during the time period since the credential was active;

[1] If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and

(c) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the applicant.

f. Attestation that the continuing competency requirements for renewal have been met;

2. The renewal fee and any other applicable fees.

3. Attestation by applicant:

a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or

b. To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.

162-011.04A If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was inactive, the Department may:

1. Assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014;

2. Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;

3. Deny the request to move the credential from inactive to active status; or

4. Move the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.

162-011.04B If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, the Department may:

1. Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;

2. Deny the request to move the credential from inactive to active status; or

3. Move the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other sanctions on the credential.

162-011.04C In either event pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011.04A or 162-011.04B, a notice and the opportunity for hearing will be given to the applicant.

162-011.04D The Department will act within 150 days on all completed applications.

162-011.05 Requirements for Reinstatement Within One Year Following Revocation for Failure to Meet the Renewal Requirements: An applicant for reinstatement who applies not more than one year following revocation for failure to meet renewal requirements must:

1. Meet the renewal requirements, including:

a. The continuing competency requirements; and

b. Paying the renewal fee, the late fee of \$35 and any other applicable fees;

2. Attest:

- a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or
- b. To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.

162-011.06 Procedures for Reinstatement Within One Year Following Revocation for Failure to Meet the Renewal Requirements: To reinstate a credential not more than one year following revocation for failure to meet renewal requirements, the applicant must submit the following to the Department:

1. A written application which contains the following information about the applicant:

- (a) Name;
- (b) Address;
- (c) Social Security Number; and
- (d) If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;
- (e) A statement describing all:

(1) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was active;

[a] If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:

- [1] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;
- [2] Arrest records;
- [3] A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;
- [4] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and
- [5] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the applicant is currently on probation.

(2) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the applicant during the time period since the credential was revoked;

[a] If any disciplinary action was taken against the applicant's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and

(3) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the applicant.

(f) Attestation that the continuing competency requirements for renewal have been met;

~~2. The renewal fee, the late fee of \$35 and any other applicable fees.~~

~~3. Attestation by the applicant:~~

~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~

~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~

~~(1) If an applicant has practiced after his/her credential was revoked the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014 in which case a notice and opportunity for hearing will be sent to the applicant.~~

~~(2) If an applicant has practiced after his/her credential was revoked, or has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, other action may be taken pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011.06B.~~

~~The Department will forward the application to the Board for its recommendation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-110 (5).~~

~~162-011.06A The Board's recommendation to the Department may be to:~~

~~1. Reinstate the credential;~~

~~2. Reinstate the credential with terms, conditions or restrictions; or~~

~~3. Deny reinstatement.~~

~~162-011.06B Upon receipt of the Board's recommendation, the Department will, within 150 days, send to the applicant a written notice of the Department's response. The Department may:~~

~~1. Reinstate the credential: An administrative penalty may be assessed pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014 if warranted;~~

~~2. If the Department determines that the applicant has committed acts or offenses prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-147 or 71-148, the Department may:~~

~~a. Reinstate the credential with terms, conditions or restrictions. In such case the applicant will be provided notice and the opportunity for hearing before the Department pursuant to the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920. An administrative penalty may be assessed pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014 if warranted; or~~

~~b. Deny reinstatement: In such case the applicant will be provided notice and the opportunity for hearing before the Department pursuant to the Department's Rules of Practice and Procedure and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~162-011.07 Requirements for Reinstatement More Than One Year Following Revocation for Failure to Meet the Renewal Requirements: An applicant for reinstatement who applies more~~

~~than one year after revocation for failure to meet the renewal requirements must:~~

- ~~1. Petition the Board for reinstatement pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.05. The petition for reinstatement must be accompanied by:
 - ~~a. Verified recommendations from at least two credentialed practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked; and~~
 - ~~b. Verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked.~~~~
- ~~2. Meet the renewal requirements, including:
 - ~~a. The continuing competency requirements; and~~
 - ~~b. Paying the renewal fee, the late fee of \$75 and any other applicable fees.~~~~
- ~~3. Attest:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in~~

~~Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~~~

~~162-011.08 Procedures for Reinstatement More Than One Year Following Revocation for Failure to Meet Renewal Requirements. An applicant for reinstatement more than one year following revocation for failure to meet renewal requirements must submit to the Board:~~

- ~~1. A petition for reinstatement:
 - ~~a. Stating the reason the petitioner believes his/her credential should be reinstated;~~
 - ~~b. Accompanied by verified recommendations from at least two credentialed practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked; and verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was revoked.~~
 - ~~c. Containing the following information about the petitioner:
 - ~~(1) Name;~~
 - ~~(2) Address;~~
 - ~~(3) Social Security Number; and~~
 - ~~(4) If the petitioner holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
 - ~~(5) A statement describing all:
 - ~~(a) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was active;~~
 - ~~[1] If the petitioner has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:~~
~~[a] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~~~~~~~

- ~~[b] Arrest records;~~
- ~~[c] A letter from the petitioner explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
- ~~[d] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
- ~~[e] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the petitioner is currently on probation.~~
- ~~(b) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the petitioner during the time period since the credential was revoked;~~
- ~~[1] If any disciplinary action was taken against the petitioner's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and~~
- ~~(c) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the petitioner.~~
- ~~(6) Attestation that the continuing competency requirements for renewal~~

~~have been met.~~

- ~~2. The renewal fee, the late fee of \$75 and any other applicable fees.~~
- ~~3. Attestation by the petitioner:~~

- ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
- ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~
 - ~~(1) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014 in which case a notice and opportunity for hearing will be sent to the petitioner.~~
 - ~~(2) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked, or has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, other action may be taken pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011.11A2 and 162-011.11A3.~~

~~162-011.08A The petition to recommend reinstatement will be considered at the next meeting of the Board that is held, but not earlier than 30 days after the petition is filed.~~

~~162-011.08B Any petition to recommend reinstatement of a credential will be conclusively acted upon by the Board within 180 days after the filing of a properly prepared petition and the necessary accompanying documents with the Board.~~

~~162-011.08C If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential, no public hearing will be held on the petition.~~

~~162-011.08D Prior to any recommendation by the Board against reinstatement of the credential, an opportunity for a formal public hearing on the petition will be granted by the Board, if formally requested by the petitioner.~~

~~162-011.08D1 The petitioner's request for a formal hearing must be submitted within 30 days of the Board's notification of an opportunity for a formal public hearing.~~

~~162-011.08E If the petitioner formally requests a formal public hearing or if the Board otherwise holds a hearing, the petitioner will be given at least 30 days prior notice by sending to the petitioner a copy of the notice of hearing by certified or registered mail at his/her last known residence or business post office address as shown by the files or records of the Department or as otherwise known. Notice may be given to the petitioner by personal service. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to 172 NAC 1-~~

~~162-011.08F The Board will review the petition to recommend reinstatement and the record of any hearing held, and submits its recommendation regarding reinstatement and the record on which the recommendation is made to the Department within 180 days of receipt of the petition to recommend reinstatement.~~

~~162-011.08F1 If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential, the Department may:~~

~~1. Accept the Board's recommendation and grant reinstatement of the credential.~~

~~2. If the Department determines that the Board's recommendation is: in excess of statutory authority; made upon unlawful procedure; unsupported by competent material and substantial evidence; or arbitrary or capricious, the Department may not accept the Board's recommendation and either:~~

~~a. Deny reinstatement of the credential, or~~

~~b. Grant reinstatement with terms, conditions, or restrictions.~~

~~162-011.08F2 If the Board recommends denial of reinstatement, the Board will send to the petitioner a written notice of the Board's recommendation. The petitioner may appeal the Board's decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~162-011.08F3 If the Board recommends reinstatement with terms, conditions, or restrictions, the Department may:~~

~~1. Accept the Board's recommendation and grant reinstatement with terms, conditions, or restrictions; or~~

~~2. Not accept the Board's recommendation and either:~~

~~a. Deny reinstatement of the credential; or~~

~~b. Grant reinstatement of the credential.~~

~~162-011.08F4 The Department will, within 150 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation, send to the petitioner a written notice of the Department's reinstatement with or without terms, conditions, or restrictions or denial of reinstatement of the credential.~~

~~162-011.08F5 The petitioner may appeal the Department's decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~162-011.09 Requirements to Reinstate a Credential Following Suspension, Limitation, or Revocation for Disciplinary Reasons: An applicant for reinstatement following suspension, limitation, or revocation for disciplinary reasons must meet the following requirements:~~

~~1. Petition the Board for reinstatement;~~

~~a. The petition for reinstatement must be accompanied by verified recommendations from at least two credentialed practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked; and~~

~~b. Verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked.~~

~~2. Pay the reinstatement fee of \$75; and~~

~~3. If the credential was revoked or suspended, attest:~~

~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~

~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~

~~162-011.10 Procedures for Reinstatement Following Suspension, Limitation, or Revocation for Disciplinary Reasons: An applicant for reinstatement following suspension, limitation, or revocation for disciplinary reasons must submit to the Board:~~

~~1. A petition for reinstatement:~~

~~a. Stating the reason the petitioner believes his/her credential should be reinstated;~~

~~b. Accompanied by verified recommendations from at least two credentialed practitioners of the same profession as the petitioner each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked; and verified recommendations from at least two citizens each having personal knowledge of the activities of the petitioner since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked.~~

~~c. Containing the following information about the petitioner:~~

~~(1) Name;~~

- ~~(2) Address;~~
- ~~(3) Social Security Number; and~~
- ~~(4) If the petitioner holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~
- ~~(5) A statement describing all:
 - ~~(a) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked;
 - ~~[1] If the petitioner has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:
 - ~~[a] Official Court Record, which includes charges and disposition;~~
 - ~~[b] Arrest records;~~
 - ~~[c] A letter from the petitioner explaining the nature of the conviction;~~
 - ~~[d] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if treatment was obtained and/or required; and~~
 - ~~[e] A letter from the probation officer addressing probationary conditions and current status, if the petitioner is currently on probation.~~~~~~~~
- ~~(b) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions against any professional credential held by the petitioner during the time period since the credential was suspended, limited, or revoked;
 - ~~[1] If any disciplinary action was taken against the petitioner's credential by another state, submit an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition; and~~~~
- ~~(c) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional credential held by the petitioner;~~
- ~~(6) Any continuing competency activities.~~
- ~~2. The reinstatement fee of \$75.~~
- ~~3. Attestation by the petitioner, if the credential was revoked or suspended:
 - ~~a. That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential; or~~
 - ~~b. To the actual number of days practiced if the petitioner has practiced in Nebraska since s/he last held an active credential.~~~~
- ~~(1) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014 in which case a separate notice and opportunity for hearing will be sent to the petitioner.~~
- ~~(2) If a petitioner has practiced after his/her credential was revoked, or has committed any other violation of the statutes and regulations governing the credential, other action may be taken pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011.10F.~~

~~162-011.10A The Board will make a recommendation to the Director regarding reinstatement following disciplinary action. In determining whether reinstatement should be recommended, the Board may:~~

- ~~1. Request the Department investigate all activities of the petitioner since the disciplinary action was taken against him/her, including activities prohibited by Neb. Rev. Stat. §§71-147 and 71-148.~~
- ~~2. Require the petitioner to submit to a complete diagnostic examination by one or more physicians appointed by the Board, the petitioner being free also to consult a physician or physicians of his/her own choice for a complete diagnostic examination and make available a report or reports thereof to the Board;~~
- ~~3. Require the petitioner to pass a written, oral, or practical examination or any combination of such examinations; or~~
- ~~4. Require the petitioner to complete additional education.~~

~~162-011.10B The petition to recommend reinstatement will be considered at the next meeting of the Board that is held, but not earlier than 30 days after the petition is filed.~~

~~162-011.10C Any petition to recommend reinstatement of a credential will be conclusively acted upon by the Board within 180 days after the filing of a properly prepared petition and the necessary accompanying documents with the Board.~~

~~162-011.10D If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential, no public hearing need be held on the petition.~~

~~162-011.10E Prior to any recommendation by the Board against reinstatement of the credential, an opportunity for a formal public hearing on the petition will be granted by the Board, if formally requested by the petitioner.~~

~~162-011.10E1 The petitioner's request for a formal hearing must be submitted within 30 days of the Board's notification of an opportunity for a formal public hearing.~~

~~162-011.10E2 If the petitioner had a hearing or an opportunity for a hearing on a prior petition to recommend reinstatement filed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.04 within a period of two years immediately preceding the filing of such petition, the Board may grant or deny, without a hearing, any petition to recommend reinstatement filed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.04.~~

~~162-011.10F If the petitioner formally requests a formal public hearing or if the Board otherwise holds a hearing, the petitioner will be given at least 30 days prior notice by sending to the petitioner a copy of the notice of hearing by certified or registered mail at his/her last known residence or business post office address as shown by the files or~~

~~records of the Department or as otherwise known. Notice may be given to the petitioner by personal service. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to 172 NAC 1.~~

~~162-011.10G The Board reviews the petition to recommend reinstatement, any examination or investigatory information and the record of hearing, if one was held. The Board will submit its recommendation to the Director within 180 days of receipt of the petition to recommend reinstatement.~~

~~162-011.10G1 If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential:~~

~~1. The Board will send its recommendation to the petitioner by certified mail along with notification that the petitioner must file an application for reinstatement with the Director.~~

~~2. The petitioner must submit, to the Department, an application for reinstatement by the Director within 30 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation.~~

~~a. The application must include:~~

~~(1) Name of the petitioner; and~~

~~(2) Signed statement that the petitioner requests the Director to issue the credential pursuant to the Board's~~

~~recommendation for reinstatement.~~

~~3. Upon receipt of the application for reinstatement from the petitioner, the Department will submit the following to the Director:~~

~~a. The application;~~

~~b. The written recommendation of the Board, including any Finding of Fact or Order of the Board;~~

~~c. The petition submitted to the Board;~~

~~d. The record of hearing, if any;~~

~~e. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the petitioner.~~

~~4. The Director will issue a decision regarding reinstatement within 150 days of receipt of the petitioner's application for reinstatement. The Director's decision will be based upon a review of the record of the proceedings before the Board. The Director will not hold a second hearing. The Director may affirm, reverse or modify the Board's recommendation. A decision by the Director to reverse or modify the Board's recommendation will be based on finding that the Board's recommendation is: in excess of statutory authority, made upon unlawful procedure, unsupported by competent material and substantial evidence in view of the entire record, or arbitrary or capricious.~~

- ~~a. When the Director affirms, modifies or reverses the Board's recommendation for reinstatement, the Director will enter an Order setting forth the decision regarding reinstatement of the petitioner's credential. The Order will be sent by certified mail to the petitioner;~~
- ~~b. If the petitioner does not accept the Director's decision, s/he may appeal such decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~162-011.10G2 If the Board recommends reinstatement of the credential with terms, conditions, or restrictions:~~

- ~~1. The Board will send its recommendation to the petitioner by certified mail along with notification that the petitioner must file an application for reinstatement with the Director.~~
- ~~2. The petitioner must submit, to the Department, an application for reinstatement by the Director within 30 days of receipt of the Board's recommendation.~~
 - ~~a. The application must include:
 - ~~(1) Name of the petitioner; and~~
 - ~~(2) Signed statement that the petitioner requests the Director to issue the credential pursuant to the Board's recommendation for reinstatement.~~~~
- ~~3. Upon receipt of the application for reinstatement from the petitioner, the Department will submit the following to the Director:~~
 - ~~a. The application;~~
 - ~~b. The written recommendation of the Board, including any finding of fact or order of the Board;~~
 - ~~c. The petition submitted to the Board;~~
 - ~~d. The record of hearing, if any;~~
 - ~~e. Any pleadings, motions, requests, preliminary or intermediate rulings and orders, and similar correspondence to or from the Board and the petitioner.~~
- ~~4. The Director will issue a decision regarding reinstatement within 150 days of receipt of the petitioner's application for reinstatement. The Director's decision will be based upon a review of the record of the proceedings before the Board. The Director will not hold a second hearing. The Director may affirm, reverse or modify the Board's recommendation. A decision by the Director to reverse or modify the Board's recommendation will be based on finding that the Board's recommendation is: in excess of statutory authority, made upon unlawful procedure, unsupported by competent material and~~

~~substantial evidence in view of the entire record, or arbitrary or capricious.~~

~~a. When the Director affirms, modifies or reverses the Board's recommendation for reinstatement, the Director will enter an Order setting forth the decision regarding reinstatement of the petitioner's credential. The Order will be sent by certified mail to the petitioner;~~

~~b. If the petitioner does not accept the Director's decision, s/he may appeal such decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

~~162-011.10G3 If the Board denies reinstatement, the Board will send to the petitioner a written notice of the Board's recommendation to deny reinstatement. The petitioner may appeal the Board's decision to the District Court of Lancaster County pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920.~~

162-011.11 Procedures for Restoration of Credentials Voluntarily Surrendered or Limited for an Indefinite Period of Time

~~162-011.11A Credentials voluntarily surrendered or limited for an indefinite period of time pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-161.11 may be restored at the discretion of the Department.~~

~~162-011.11A1 An applicant for restoration of a credential that was voluntarily surrendered or limited for an indefinite period of time must submit to the Department:~~

~~1. A written application which contains the following information about the applicant:~~

~~a. Name;~~

~~b. Address;~~

~~c. Social Security Number; and~~

~~d. If the applicant holds a professional credential in another state, a list of the state(s) and type of credential;~~

~~e. A statement describing all:~~

~~(1) Felony or misdemeanor convictions during the time period since the credential was active;~~

~~(a) If the applicant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, provide copies of:~~

~~[1] Official Court Record, which includes charges~~

~~and disposition;~~

~~[2] Arrest records;~~

~~[3] A letter from the applicant explaining the nature of the conviction;~~

~~[4] All addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment, if the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense and if~~

- _____ treatment was obtained and/or required; and
_____ [5] A letter from the probation officer addressing
_____ probationary conditions and current status;
_____ if the applicant is currently on probation.
- _____ (2) Revocations, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions
_____ against any professional credential held by the applicant
_____ during the time period since the credential was active;
_____ (a) If any disciplinary action was taken against the
_____ applicant's credential by another state, submit an
_____ official copy of the disciplinary action, including
_____ charges and disposition; and
- _____ (3) Disciplinary charges pending against any professional
_____ credential held by the applicant.
- f. _____ Any continuing competency activities.
- g. _____ Attest:
- _____ (1) That s/he has not practiced in Nebraska prior to the
_____ voluntary surrender of his/her credential; or
- _____ (2) _____ To the actual number of days practiced if the applicant
_____ has practiced in Nebraska prior to the voluntary
_____ surrender of his/her credential.
- _____ ~~162-011.11A2~~ If an applicant has practiced while his/her credential was
voluntarily surrendered, the Department may:
- _____ 1. _____ Assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014;
 - _____ 2. _____ Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;
 - _____ 3. _____ Deny the request to restore the credential; or
 - _____ 4. _____ Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other
_____ sanctions on the credential.
- ~~162-011.11A3~~ If an applicant has committed any other violation of the statutes
and regulations governing the credential while his/her credential was voluntarily
surrendered or limited, the Department may:
- _____ 1. _____ Initiate disciplinary action against the credential;
 - _____ 2. _____ Deny the request for restoration of the credential; or
 - _____ 3. _____ Restore the credential to active status and impose limitation(s) or other
_____ sanctions on the credential.
- ~~162-011.11A4~~ In either event pursuant to 172 NAC 162-011.11A2 or 162-
011.11A3, a notice and the opportunity for hearing will be given to the applicant.
- ~~162-011.11A5~~ The Department will act within 150 days on all completed
applications.

~~162-011.12 Procedures for Restoration of Credentials Voluntarily Surrendered or Limited for a Specific and Definite Period of Time~~

~~162-011.12A Credentials voluntarily surrendered or limited for a specific and definite period of time as agreed to between the holder and Department pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.11, will be automatically restored at the expiration of that period of time.~~

~~162-011.12B If an individual has practiced while his/her credential was voluntarily surrendered for a specific and definite period of time, the Department may assess an administrative penalty pursuant to 172 NAC 162-014.~~

~~162-011.13 Credentials Voluntarily Surrendered or Limited Permanently~~

~~162-011.13A Credentials that are voluntarily surrendered or limited permanently pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-161.11 may not be restored.~~

~~162-012 CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE~~

~~162-012.01 General Requirements for Licensure: On or before June 1, of each even numbered year, each respiratory care practitioner who is in active practice and in the State of Nebraska must:~~

~~2. Complete 20 hours of continuing education during the preceding 24 month period to renew a license.~~

~~2. Be responsible for:~~

~~e. Maintaining until the next renewal period, documentation of attendance at, or participation in, continuing education programs/activities. Documentation of attendance or participation must include the following:~~

~~(3) Signed certificate; and~~

~~(4) Course brochure or course outline.~~

~~b. Maintaining documentation of presentation of a continuing education program if the licensee is presenting a program. Documentation must include the following:~~

~~(4) Course outline; and~~

~~(5) Brochure of course; or~~

~~(6) Statement of instructor's qualification to teach the course, unless the qualifications are included in the brochure.~~

~~3. If applicable, submit an application for waiver of the continuing competency requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 162-012.02.~~

~~162-012.01A Acceptable Continuing Education: In order for a learning experience to be accepted for renewal or reinstatement of a license, the learning experience must~~

~~relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care and it may focus on research, treatment, documentation, management, or education.~~

~~162-012.01B The Board does not pre-approve continuing education programs but will accept as continuing education for renewal of a license or reinstatement of a license the following learning experiences to include:~~

~~2. Programs at State and National association meetings which relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care;~~

~~2. Formal education courses/presentations in which:~~

- ~~a. The courses or presentations are formally organized and planned instructional experiences that have a date, location, course title, number of contact hours, signed certificate of attendance, and are open to all licensees;~~
- ~~b. The objectives relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care; and~~
- ~~c. The instructor has specialized experience or training to meet the objectives of the course.~~

~~3. University or college sponsored courses relating to the theory or clinical~~

~~application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care. A licensee must provide documentation of successfully completing the course. A licensee's documentation must include an official transcript, and a program outline and/or objectives;~~

~~4. Home study where the content of the home study activity relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, or management, e.g. videotapes, internet courses, and/or correspondence courses. The program must have a testing mechanism scored by the named study provider. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of completion, and a program outline and/or objectives;~~

~~5. Management courses which relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care. A respiratory care practitioner may complete a maximum of four hours of continuing education utilizing management courses each 24 month renewal period. A licensee's documentation must include a certificate of attendance and a program outline and/or objectives;~~

~~6. Nationally recognized specialty certification examinations re: Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT), Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPFT), Neonatal Pediatric Specialist (NPS), Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPGST): A licensee will earn 10 contact~~

~~hours of continuing education each 24-month renewal period for successful completion of a nationally recognized specialty certification examination related to an area of specialty practice in the field of respiratory care. A licensee's documentation must include a copy of the certification.~~

~~7. Basic cardiac life support or advanced cardiac life support for adults and pediatric or neonatal courses.~~

~~a. Maximum of one hour credit for the Basic Cardiac Life Support course during each 24-month renewal period;~~

~~d. Maximum of 12 hours credit for initial ACLS certification course or six hours credit for re-certification during each 24-month renewal period; and~~

~~c. Maximum of 8 hours credit for initial Neonatal Advanced Life Support certification course or four hours credit for recertification during each 24-month renewal period.~~

~~d. Maximum of 12 hours credit for Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification course or six hours credit for recertification during each 24-month renewal period.~~

~~162-012.01C One hour credit will be awarded for each hour of attendance. Credit will not be awarded for breaks, lunch, or dinner.~~

~~162-012.01D One hour credit will be awarded for each hour of scientific presentation by a licensee acting as an essayist or lecturer to licensed respiratory care practitioners if the program relates to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to respiratory care. A licensee may receive continuing education credit for only the initial presentation during a renewal period, with a maximum of four hours of continuing education for presentations in a 24-month renewal period.~~

~~162-012.01E Non-acceptable Continuing Education: Continuing education credit will not be awarded for programs that do not relate to the theory or clinical application of theory pertaining to the practice of respiratory care including but not limited to:~~

~~1. Business communications and operations.~~

~~2. Medical terminology and language courses.~~

~~3. Courses which deal with personal self-improvement, financial gain, or career options.~~

~~4. Courses designed for lay persons.~~

~~5. Teaching unlicensed or uncertified persons, conducting research, or publications, nor any preparation for same.~~

~~6. Courses less than 60 minutes in duration.~~

~~7. Respiratory care on-the-job training.~~

~~8. Respiratory care orientation programs or staff meetings, including~~

~~orientation to new policies, procedures, equipment, forms, responsibilities, services, etc.~~

~~9. Presentation made by students.~~

~~10. Participation in or attendance at case conferences, grand rounds, or informal presentations.~~

~~162-012.02 Waiver of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Department, on the recommendation of the Board, may waive the continuing competency requirements, in part or in total, for any two year licensing period when a licensee submits documentation that circumstances beyond his/her control prevented completion of such requirements.~~

~~162-012.02A Such circumstances must include situations in which:~~

~~1. The licensee holds a Nebraska license but is not practicing his/her profession in Nebraska;~~

~~2. The licensee has served in the regular armed forces of the United States during part of the 24 months immediately preceding the license renewal date;~~

~~3. The licensee has submitted proof that s/he was suffering from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required number of continuing education hours during the 24 months~~

~~preceding the license renewal date;~~

~~4. The licensee was first licensed within the 24 months immediately preceding the license renewal date;~~

~~5. The licensee successfully completed two or more semester hours of formal credit instruction biennially offered by an accredited school or college which contributes to meeting the requirements of an advanced degree in a postgraduate program relating to respiratory care; and~~

~~6. Other circumstances beyond the licensee's control prevented completion of the continuing competency requirements.~~

~~162-012.02B Application for Waiver of Continuing Competency Requirements: Any licensee who seeks a waiver of continuing competency requirements, in part or in total, for any two year licensing period must apply to the Department. The Department, on the recommendation of the Board, may waive continuing competency requirements in part or in total for any two year period. The licensee must submit:~~

~~1. A complete application for waiver of continuing competency requirements on a form provided by the Department and referred to as Attachment M or at the option of the applicant, s/he may apply by using an alternate format which s/he prefers. Only applications which are complete will be considered, and the application must be received by the Department on or~~

~~before June 1 of the year the license is subject to renewal; and~~

- ~~2. Documentation of the circumstances beyond the licensee's control which prevented completion of continuing competency requirements pursuant to 172 NAC 162-010.02A must include the following:~~

~~a. If the licensee holds a Nebraska license but is not practicing in Nebraska, s/he must mark the appropriate response in the waiver section of Attachment D.~~

~~b. If the licensee has served in the regular armed forces of the United States during part of the 24 month immediately preceding the license renewal date, s/he must mark the appropriate response in the waiver section of Attachment D and submit official documentation stating the dates of such service.~~

~~c. If the licensee has suffered from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required number of hours of continuing competency requirements during the 24 months preceding the license renewal date, s/he must mark the appropriate response in the waiver section of Attachment D and submit a statement from a treating physician(s) stating that the licensee was injured or ill, the duration of the illness or injury and of~~

~~the recovery period, and that the licensee was unable to obtain continuing competency requirements during that period.~~

~~d. If the licensee was first licensed within 24 months immediately preceding the license renewal date, s/he must mark the appropriate response in the waiver section of Attachment M and list the date said license was issued.~~

~~e. If the licensee successfully completed two or more semester hours of formal credit instruction biennially offered by an accredited school or college which contributes to meeting the requirements of an advanced degree in a postgraduate program relating to respiratory care, s/he must mark the appropriate response in the waiver section of Attachment D and submit official documentation showing completion of such hours.~~

~~f. If the licensee has other circumstances beyond his/her control that prevented him/her from obtaining the required continuing competency requirements, s/he must mark the appropriate response in the waiver section of Attachment D and submit documentation verifying such circumstances.~~

~~162-012.02C The Department, on recommendation of the Board, may grant or deny, in part or in total, an application for waiver of continuing competency requirements, upon~~

~~proof that circumstances beyond the applicant's control prevented completion of such requirements.~~

~~162-012.02C1 When the Department determines to deny an application for waiver of continuing competency requirements, it must send to the applicant by certified mail to the last name and address of record in the Department, a notice setting forth the reason for the denial determination.~~

~~162-012.02C1a The applicant has 30 days from the date of receipt of the denial notice to make a written request to the Department for an appeal. The appeal must be conducted pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920, The Administrative Procedure Act and 184 NAC 1 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Department.~~

~~162-012.02C1b The Department will issue at the conclusion of the appeal pursuant to 184 NAC 1, a final order setting forth the results of the appeal.~~

~~162-012.02C2 When the Department determines to grant a waiver of continuing competency requirements, the applicant will be notified within 30 days of receipt of the application.~~

~~162-012.03 Audit of Continuing Competency Requirements: The Board will select, either during or after renewal, in a random manner, a sample of the licensee's renewal applications~~

~~for audit of continuing competency requirements. Each licensee will be responsible for maintaining in his/her own personal files such certificates or records of credit from continuing education activities received from continuing education providers. Licensees selected for audit will be required to produce documentation of his/her attendance at those continuing education activities including program outline and/or course objectives attested to on his/her renewal application.~~

~~162-012.03A The Department will send to each licensee selected a notice of audit.~~

~~162-012.03B When selected for audit, the licensee will provide satisfactory documentation of attendance at or participation in continuing education activities and the program outline and/or objectives listed on the licensee's affidavit as pursuant to 172 NAC 162-012.01 item 2.~~

~~162-012.03C The Board reserves the right to audit the continuing education affidavit of any licensee by notifying the licensee and requesting the licensee to produce within 30 days of mailing, documents verifying attendance at continuing education activities.~~

~~162-012.03D Continuing education for which no documentation is produced will not be included in the calculation of the total number of continuing education hours.~~

~~162-012.03E Failure to comply with the audit may be grounds for non-renewal or revocation of the license.~~

~~162-013 SCHEDULE OF FEES:~~ The following fees have been set by the Department:

- ~~1. Initial License Fee:~~ By an applicant for a license to practice respiratory care, the fee of \$50 and the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$1 per year for each year remaining during the current biennial renewal period.
- ~~2. Proration of Initial License Fee:~~ For issuance of a credential that will expire within 180 days after its initial issuance date, a fee of \$25 and the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$1.
- ~~3. License Renewal Fee:~~ By an applicant for renewal on a biennial basis of a license to practice respiratory care, the fee of \$40 and the Licensee Assistance Program fee of \$2.
- ~~4. Inactive License Status Fee:~~ By an applicant to have his/her license placed on inactive status, the fee of \$25.
- ~~5. Renewal Late Fee:~~ By an applicant for renewal on a biennial basis of a license, who fails to pay the renewal fee on or before the expiration date of his/her license, the fee of \$25 as a late charge, in addition to the renewal fee.
- ~~6. Certification of License Fee:~~ For issuance of a certification of a license the fee of \$25. The certification includes information regarding:
 - ~~a. The basis on which a license was issued;~~
 - ~~b. The date of issuance;~~
 - ~~c. Whether disciplinary action has been taken against the license; and~~
 - ~~d. The current status of the license.~~
- ~~7. Verification of License Fee:~~ For issuance of a verification of a license the fee of \$5. The verification includes written confirmation as to whether a license was valid at the time the request was made.
- ~~8. Duplicate License Fee:~~ For a duplicate original license document or reissued license, the fee of \$10.
- ~~9. Administrative Fee:~~ For a denied license or withdrawn application, the administrative fee of \$25 will be retained by the Department, except if the license fee is less than \$25, the fee will be forfeited and an examination fee will not be returned.
- ~~10. Reinstatement Late Fee:~~ For reinstatement for a license for failure to meet renewal requirements:
 - ~~a. Within one year, the fee of \$35 in addition to the renewal fee.~~
 - ~~b. After one year of revocation, the fee of \$75 in addition to the renewal fee~~
- ~~11. Reinstatement Fee:~~ For reinstatement of a respiratory care license following suspension, limitation, or revocation for disciplinary reasons, the fee of \$75.

~~162-014 ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY: The Department may assess an administrative penalty when evidence exists that a person or entity practices without a license. Practice without a license for the purpose of this regulation means practice:~~

- ~~1. Prior to the issuance of a license;~~
- ~~2. Following the expiration of a license; or~~
- ~~3. Prior to the reinstatement of a license.~~

~~162.014.01 Evidence of Practice: The Department will consider any of the following conditions as prima facie evidence of practice without a license:~~

- ~~1. The person admits to engaging in practice;~~
- ~~2. Staffing records or other reports from the employer of the person indicate that the person was engaged in practice;~~
- ~~3. Billing or payment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;~~
- ~~4. Service, care, treatment records document the provision of service, care, or treatment by the person;~~
- ~~5. Appointment records indicate that the person was engaged in practice;~~
- ~~6. The person or entity opens a business or practice site and announces or advertises that the business or site is open to provide service, care, or treatment.~~

~~For purposes of this regulation prima facie evidence means a fact presumed to be true unless disproved by some evidence to the contrary.~~

~~162-014.02 Penalty: The Department may assess an administrative penalty in the amount of \$10 per day, not to exceed a total of \$1,000 for practice without a license. To assess such penalty, the Department will:~~

- ~~1. Provide written notice of the assessment to the person. The notice must specify:
 - ~~a. The total amount of the administrative penalty;~~
 - ~~b. The evidence on which the administrative penalty is based;~~
 - ~~c. That the person may request, in writing, a hearing to contest the assessment of an administrative penalty;~~
 - ~~d. That the Department will within 30 days following receipt of payment of the administrative penalty, transmit the penalty to the State Treasurer for credit to the Permanent School Fund; and~~
 - ~~e. That an unpaid administrative penalty constitutes a debt to the State of Nebraska which may be collected in the manner of a lien foreclosure or sued for and recovered in a proper form of action in the name of the state in the District Court of the county in which the violator resides or owns property.~~~~
- ~~2. Send by certified mail, a written notice of the administrative penalty to the last known address of the person to whom the penalty is assessed.~~

~~162.014.03 Administrative Hearing: When a person contests the administrative penalty and requests a hearing, the Department will hold a hearing pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-901 to 84-920 and the Department's rules and regulations adopted pursuant to these statutes.~~

~~Approved by Attorney General: December 13, 2004
Approved by Governor: January 10, 2005
Filed with Secretary of State: January 10, 2005
Effective Date: January 15, 2005~~

~~Forms A through L may be obtained by contacting the Credentialing Division.~~

~~Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Regulation and Licensure
Credentialing Division
PO Box 94986
Lincoln NE 68509-4986~~

~~(402)471-2299~~

~~<http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/profindex1.htm>~~

State of Nebraska
Department of Health and Human Services
Regulation and Licensure, Credentialing Division
P.O. Box 94986
Lincoln, NE 68509-4986

APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE

Board of Respiratory Care Practice

SECTION A - PERSONAL INFORMATION (All applicants must complete this section.)

1. Name: _____/
(Last) (First) (Middle/Maiden)

2. Date of Birth: _____ 3. Age: _____
~~— (Attach proof of age of majority: i.e., verified copy of birth or marriage certificate or driver's license.) Verified means sworn to before a Notary Public.~~

4. Place of Birth: _____
(City/County) (State)

5. Mailing Address: _____
(Street/P.O. Box/Route)

(City) (State/County) (Zip Code)

6. SSN # _____ OPTIONAL: Telephone: (____) _____
Area Code

Determine the month and year in which you are submitting your application. Pay the amount in the corresponding box.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Even	\$26	\$26	\$26	\$26	\$26	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52
Odd	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$52	\$51	\$51	\$51	\$51	\$51	\$51	\$26

~~** If the license fee at the time the application is final is different from the fee at the time the application is submitted, the difference will be requested or refunded.~~

7. Moral Character: Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?

— Yes _____ No _____ If yes, state what crime, date of conviction, name, and location of court:

If you answered Yes to the above, you must request the following documents be sent directly to this office:

- Official court records, which includes charges and disposition
- If the conviction involved a drug and/or alcohol related offense, all addiction/mental health evaluations and proof of treatment (if treatment was obtained and/or required)
- If you are currently on probation, a letter from your probation officer addressing probationary conditions and your current status

8. Are you or have you been licensed or certified in another state? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, list state(s) and license/certifications numbers: _____

If you answered Yes to the above, you must request the following documents be sent directly to this office:

- If your license in health care in another state has been revoked, suspended, limited or discipline in any way, an official copy of the disciplinary action, including charges and disposition

9. Is any disciplinary action pending or ever been taken against your license/certificate?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, state date and type of action; name and address of entity taking such action: _____

SECTION B – LICENSE APPLICATION CATEGORY (All applicants must complete this section)

- () By Examination after July 17, 1986
- () By Examination on or prior to July 17, 1986
- () By Licensure in Another Jurisdiction (state)

Have you taken the National Board for Respiratory Care CRTT Examination? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, list date(s) _____

Have you passed the CRTT examination? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, proceed as directed in Section C below.

SECTION C – EDUCATION

Complete this section if you have passed, or will take, the licensure examination after July 17, 1986.

~~Submit an official transcript for proof of completion of an approved respiratory care program. A transcript is considered official when it is issued by the institution where the training program was completed and affixed with its seal.~~

APPROVED _____
RESPIRATORY _____ Name and Location
CARE _____
PROGRAM _____ Date Completed

~~SECTION D - EXAMINATION - PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING:~~

- ~~1. If you have taken the CRTT or RRT examination on or before July 17, 1986, you must submit a letter verifying certification sent to this office by National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC).~~
- ~~2. If you have taken the CRTT examination after July 17, 1986, submit a notarized copy of your score report from NBRC or a letter from NBRC stating that you have passed the certification examination. This letter must be sent by NBRC to the address on the first page of this application.~~

~~SECTION E - LICENSE ISSUED ON BASIS OF A LICENSE IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION:~~

~~(State) (If you hold a license to practice respiratory care in another jurisdiction, complete this section and have the licensing agency complete the Certification of Applicant's License in Respiratory Care Attachment A-3.)~~

~~1. Name of Agency Issuing License: _____
Address: _____
_____(Street/P.O. Box) _____(City) _____(State) _____(Zip Code)~~

~~2. Date Issued: _____~~

~~3. Name of Written Examination: _____~~

~~4A. Have you been in the active and continuous practice of respiratory care under such license or in an accepted residency or graduate program for one year of the three years immediately preceding the date of application for Nebraska license? Yes _____ No _____~~

~~4A1. If in an accepted residency or graduate program, provide the name of the facility or graduate program, address, and dates actively engaged in the practice of respiratory care. (Continue on reverse side or use an additional sheet if space is inadequate.)~~

Facility	Address	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4A2. ~~Give location, address, and dates actively engaged in practice of respiratory care. (Continue on reverse side or use an additional sheet if space is inadequate.)~~

Facility	Address	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4B. ~~Have you been in active and continuous practice of respiratory care under license by examination in the state, territory, or District of Columbia from which you come for at least one year following the issuance of such license?~~

4B1. ~~Give location, address, and dates actively engaged in practice of respiratory care. (Continue on reverse side or use an additional sheet if space is inadequate.)~~

Facility	Address	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. ~~Have you requested to have certification of your respiratory care practitioner license sent to Nebraska by submitting to the appropriate licensing agency the Certification of Applicant's License In Respiratory Care "Attachment A-3"?~~

~~Yes _____ No _____~~

~~SECTION F—CERTIFYING INFORMATION~~ (All applicants must complete Section F.)

I hereby certify that the preceding information is correct to the best of my knowledge and I further certify that I am of good moral character.

Signature of Applicant:: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT
June 29, 2009

NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE
REGULATION AND LICENSURE

172 NAC 162



State of Nebraska
HHSR&L Credentialing Division
P.O. Box 94986 - Lincoln, NE 68509-4986
Telephone: (402) 471-2299

**APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS—
RESPIRATORY CARE**

ATTACHMENT M

State of Nebraska _____)
_____) ss _____
County of _____)

WAIVER OF CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS: If you have not completed the required continuing competency requirements and wish to apply for a waiver, please complete the following information:

_____ I AM REQUESTING A WAIVER of _____ continuing education hours.

Check applicable reason(s) for waiver below:

- ☐ I hold a Nebraska license but have not engaged in the practice of respiratory care for the twenty-four (24) months preceding renewal.
- ☐ I have served in the regular armed forces of the United States during part of the twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding the licensure renewal date. (Attach official documentation stating dates of service)
- ☐ I was first licensed within the twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding the license renewal date.
Date of issuance of license: _____
- ☐ I have suffered a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required number of continuing education hours during the twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding the license renewal date. (Attach a statement from treating physician(s) stating that the licensee was injured or ill, the duration of the illness or injury and of the recovery period, and that the licensee was unable to attend continuing education programs during that period.)
- ☐ Other, please explain:

I, _____ (name of licensee), depose and say that I am the person named making application and that I have completed this application; and that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of

DRAFT

NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE

172 NAC 162

June 29, 2009

REGULATION AND LICENSURE

~~my knowledge and belief.~~

Signature of Licensee

Date